



Residents welcome council decision to refuse scheme

# VICTORY CRY ON WASTE SITE PLAN

BY DAVID COSGROVE

**NEWS** that plans for a 'waste transfer station' in Stourbridge have been rejected has been hailed as a victory for local people.

The application for Bromley Street, in Lye, would have seen the storage of skips, plant and shipping containers including a weighbridge.

Several letters of concern were received from neighbours in fear of it being unsafe and an increase in vermin.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, who is the leader of the Dudley UKIP group, said: "The refusal comes as fantastic news for the community.

"This is another company that was not listening to the needs of local people. It is a victory.

"I hope that the council also learn from this case too for future applications."

Businesses along Bromley Street also wrote letters of concern to Dudley Council.

Phil Jones and Richard Huggins, who own A&P J Steels Limited, voiced their reasons for opposition in a letter, stating:

"Waste products and the increase of vermin; we have experienced a substantial increase in vermin in the past two years."

## Pollute

Mark Watson, who owns Watsons Metal Polishers Limited, said: "The whole area around is unstable. Our factory shakes with passing lorries and adding more vehicle access would cause more disruption problems."

"The ground around here is very unstable and the unit which they want to convert has partially fallen down due to subsidence."

The plans were refused because the site could potentially pollute the water of the nearby River Stour, a report published by Dudley Council said.

The report said: "The proposed use as a waste transfer station is considered to have the potential to cause harm to the adjoining water course due to the inherent nature of the operation."

Council planners noted that there were no plans outlined as to how surface drainage would be provided or controlled.

The application was submitted by Nicklin Waste Management Limited.

No-one was available for comment.

It comes as council bosses announced earlier this year that they want to sell off Dudley borough's main tip on Birmingham Street and instead make the Leys Depot in Brierley Hill the central base for waste disposal.

The council will also aim to make money out of the move, with chiefs hoping the Stourbridge site can be sold to developers.

## FANS' JOY AS GLASSBOYS MAKE PLAY-OFF FINAL



STOURBRIDGE have booked their place in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-off final on Saturday after an extra-time winner saw them beat Workington 3-2. The see-saw semi-final ended up all square when the visitors equalised three minutes into injury time. But Jordan Archer sealed victory on 97 minutes when he rolled his marker before hammering the ball high into the roof of the net.

● Report – Back Page

## COMPENSATION

**£350,000 in payouts for pothole damage**

COMPENSATION payments of almost £350,000 have been paid out because of damage caused by potholes in the last four years – with one driver alone receiving more than £4,600, new figures from a Freedom of Information request have revealed.

Problem roads around the county include Erville Common Road in South Staffordshire and Keepers Lane in Codsall.

The single highest payout was after a collision with a pothole at the junction of Somerset Road and Kent Road in Stafford.

● Full story – Page 4

## CHARITY

**Rugby match in aid of ill woman**

A RUGBY match will be held in Stourbridge to raise money for a 38-year-old woman who has been diagnosed with muscular sclerosis.

Stacey Hurrell was a geography teacher before having to quit due to her condition. A match at Stourton Park will see ex-Stourbridge players and more compete in an attempt to help raise £50,000 for treatment in Mexico.

The event is on May 7 with tickets priced at £5 or £7 on the gate. For more information call 07572410361.

## CRIME

**Theft of cable leads to delays on trains**

THOUSANDS of commuters experienced delays on dozens of trains between Birmingham and Wolverhampton after cable was stolen.

British Transport Police officers were called by rail staff at 4.10am on Monday to reports of a cable theft at Coseley railway station, causing a problem with signalling. Passengers at Coseley, Tipton, Dudley Port and more experienced delays.

London Midland trains were running at a reduced speed due to the theft, causing knock-on delays. Officers are investigating and urge anyone with information to call 0800 40 50 40.

## INSIDE

**PM IN BATTLE CRY ON REGION**



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STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE  
Thursday, April 27, 2017

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# Car parking concerns at busy station

PARKING problems at Coseley railway station are to get worse as it gets 'busier than ever', it has been claimed.

Residents and ward councillor Susan Ridney have raised concerns over the lack of spaces for vehicles at the station.

Nearby Tipton rail station will more than double in size after expansion plans were given the green light last month - meaning 100 new spaces to ease congestion.

Following a survey, it was found that the station was full by 8.30am on most days.

However, Coseley train station, which is used regularly by commuters to get to Birmingham and

beyond, is 'busier than ever', according to Councillor Ridney.

She said: "The train station has always been busy but it's getting busier than ever now.

"People are using trains more which I applaud, but I have a responsibility which means I need to listen to residents' concerns and they are about the lack of parking.

"Commuters are parking on streets, the car parks in Roseville for shoppers and on an old derelict pub because the two car parks are full."

The station currently has 97 spaces and five blue badge spaces.

However, the body responsible for the car park

urged commuters to park 'responsibly' and encouraged people to get to the station by other means.

Mark Langford, Transport for West Midlands spokesman, said: "Park and ride is a very popular scheme and results in many car parks being full by 8am.

"Motorists have a big part to play in giving themselves enough time to get a space at their chosen station, and while we do not control what happens outside of our car parks, we strongly encourage anyone unable to get a space to park responsibly.

"They could ask themselves if they really need to drive to the station as users living less than a mile away could catch the bus, cycle or walk."

# Thousands join castle's St George's celebrations



Robert Aston, from Coseley, dresses for the St George's Day celebration at Dudley Castle



Kevin Simpson and Lizzie Fotheringham



An archer lines up his shot during the event



It was great fun for children



Thousands of visitors queued down Castle Hill

THOUSANDS of people flocked to Dudley Zoo to help make this year's St George's celebrations a roaring success.

It was a sea of red and white as the Castle Hill attraction teamed up with Dudley Council to host the event in honour of England's patron saint on Sunday.

Visitors enjoyed the entertainment in the 11th century castle's courtyard

which included medieval re-enactors, dragon puppets, stilt walkers, children's entertainer Dippy, history talks, ghost tours, face painting and crafts.

There were also extra talks and feeds at the penguin and sea lion enclosures for families to enjoy.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, said: "For the second-year running we have teamed up with Dudley Zoo, which has done a great job of making the celebrations for St George's Day really enjoyable."

Derek Grove, zoo director, added: "As a community-based zoo we welcome the opportunity to host our second St George's Day celebration within the grounds of Dudley Castle.

Visitors

"This year again proved hugely popular with over twice as many visitors coming specifically for the event and they were joined by our regular day visitors who stayed later to make the most of the festivities."

Elsewhere in the Black Country,

a patriotic fervour spilled on to the streets of West Bromwich as thousands took part in a street parade believed to have been one of the biggest in the country.

It was led by the Royal British Legion from 9.45am at the Horse and Jockey pub, on Stoney Lane, before heading to Dartmouth Park.

The procession was followed by a short service in Dartmouth Park before an all-day family fete with fair rides, craft stalls, bouncy castles and historical re-enactments.

# Ceremony of thanks after scheme wins major award

A VOLUNTARY counselling scheme that helps more than 100 children and young people a week has been honoured with a prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The What? Centre provides one-to-one therapeutic counselling and advice services for young people, working with more than 120 young people a week at its centre based in Stourbridge.

The award is the highest a voluntary group can receive in the UK and a lavish thank you ceremony was attended by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Viv Astling OBE at Himley Hall.

Julie Duffy, chief officer for 30 years at the centre, spoke of her pride at receiving the award.

She said: "More than 40 of our volunteers attended the event that have worked with us for a long time. It was really a moment to be proud of.

"Everyone said that they had been impacted from hearing the work that the centre does and mental health has really been in the spotlight lately."

The What? Centre is one of 193 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year.

The number of awards given to groups this year is slightly higher than last year, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to tackle community challenges.

Julie continued: "This award is for all of the volunteers who have counselled or supported young people at any time during these 30 years."

# Free parking trial to get under way

A FREE parking trial in an effort to boost trade will get under way on Monday.

Shoppers visiting Dudley Council car parks in Sedgley, Dudley, Brierley Hill and Halesowen can enjoy up to two hours of free parking through to July 2.

People who want to take advantage of the trial will need to print and display a free parking ticket from the machines already in place.

Normal charges will be in place for people parking for longer than two hours and return is prohibited within three hours of leaving.

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The intention is to encourage people to visit the shopping areas across the borough. We're trying to work out if car parking attracts people into the towns."

Cricket scheme to encourage young

A NEW cricket programme is in place to encourage more youngsters aged five to eight to play the game.

The All Stars Cricket Scheme is available at Coseley Cricket Club on Mondays from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. For more information, visit [allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk).

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# Vandals in attack on go-karts at playground

VANDALS broke into an adventure playground in Dudley and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Staff at the Sycamore Adventure youth centre returned to work on Monday morning to find an outdoor storage cupboard had been broken into and all 15 of its go-karts left strewn all over the site.

One – which was one of four bought by the Dudley Council-owned centre following a grant from Comic Relief – has been damaged beyond repair, while several others have also been damaged.

## Impact

The full impact of the break-in has not been assessed – but bosses at the centre, which is on the site of the former Sycamore Green Primary School, have already said they will be unable to afford to replace them.

Keith Rogers, play centre manager, said: "Somebody, or more likely a group of people, have jumped the fence, prised the doors open on an outside storage area and basically emptied it."

"There were 15 go-karts completely spread across the whole site. Several of them have been damaged. One of them is, I think, now completely unusable, and that is one of the more expensive ones."

"Nothing has been taken and there seems to have been no intention to steal at all – it's just mindless vandalism."

# UKIP leader will not enter MP race

THE leader of Dudley UKIP group Paul Brothwood has announced that he will not be standing as a candidate in the General Election.

It comes as Councillor Brothwood announced in recent weeks that he would no longer support Labour, which controls the local authority but does not have an overall majority.

He is now set for talks with the Conservative group, the second biggest party at the council house, about a change in leadership.

In a statement released yesterday, Councillor Brothwood said: "As UKIP group leader I have a duty to the 300,000 residents of the entire borough to ensure significant progress is made at the council. I have to set aside my own personal ambition."

# Bananarama in Brum reunion gig

Bananarama are reuniting for the first time since 1988 and will play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on November 23.

Sara Dallin led the band which formed in 1979.

# Former police chief facing case probe



Former chief constable Chris Sims

A FORMER West Midlands and Staffordshire Chief Constable is facing possible investigation over the handling of an historical child sex abuse case.

The complaint against Chris Sims centres on why a meeting between him and alleged victims of abuse at Tettenhall College in Wolverhampton never took place – despite a request by then-Home Secretary Theresa May.

The Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said it had received a complaint from alleged victims An-

drew Wood and Mark Shelton. It is understood another police force is to be asked to look into the complaint, but the pair have also been offered a meeting with current Chief Constable Dave Thompson and a representative of Mr Jamieson's office.

Mr Wood, originally of Wombourne, and Mr Shelton, of Shifnal, were expecting a meeting with Mr Sims in early 2015 to discuss problems with their case. It followed an intervention by Mrs May in February of that year.

At the time, prosecutors were deliberating whether to bring charges

against ex-Tettenhall College head Colin Cope after video footage emerged showing him driving, carrying a table and climbing stairs eight months after being too sick to stand trial. He was charged with 11 offences on boys at the Wolverhampton school. He denied any wrongdoing.

Mr Wood and Mr Shelton were among five ex-pupils paid a total of £129,000 in an out-of-court settlement in 2012 by the boarding school. The school did not admit liability. Cope died aged 84 in March 2015.

Mr Sims declined to comment.

# Charity box conwoman spared prison by court

A CONWOMAN posed as a charity worker to trick people into handing over collection tins.

Claire Kierczek, of Dudley, was spared prison despite having a similar conviction on her record and being subject to a suspended prison sentence at the time.

She had denied two charges of fraud, but was found guilty by magistrates who committed her to Warwick Crown Court to be sentenced.

The 32-year-old, of Buffery Road was given a 12-month jail term suspended for two years.

She was ordered to take part in a drug rehabilitation programme, made subject to a curfew for six months, and fined £1 for breaching a suspended sentence imposed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last year.

Mr Nicholas Smith, prosecuting, said that in November Kierczek was at Asda in Jubilee Crescent, Coventry, posing as a representative of the Royal British Legion.

She showed staff a fake ID saying she was there to collect charity boxes. Kierczek took two boxes, one a British Legion box with an estimated £200 in it, and left empty ones.

## Drug

CCTV recordings were later seized by police from which she was identified. But by then she had struck again, this time at the Coventry Trophy Centre in Burnaby Road, Coventry.

At the time Kierczek was subject to a 12-month community order imposed by Birmingham magistrates for a similar offence in November 2015 of posing as an employee to steal charity boxes. Then at Wolverhampton in March last year, for converting criminal property by selling a camera that had been stolen in a burglary, she had been given the two-month suspended sentence.

Recorder Christopher Donnellan QC said: "It is mean. It justifies custody. But if she has a drug problem and it is on-going, I am minded to follow the recommendation in the pre-sentence report. I am going to give her a chance to sort out the heroin problem."

Sentencing Kierczek and ordering her to pay £50 to the Air Ambulance and £75 to the British Legion, he told her: "People who give to charities in boxes in shops are often people giving small amounts because that is all they can afford to give. It is often those small amounts that make big differences to charities."

"This is your last chance, and I hope that you take it."

## Take Walk on Wild Side for milestone



Zoo staff Sally Skinner, Sam Grove and Lucy Musgrove get ready to celebrate the zoo's 80th birthday

There's less than one month to go until Dudley Zoo turns 80, and they are reminding supporters to Take a Walk on the Wild Side for their critically-endangered Bornean orangutans.

Staff are turning back the clock on May 6 – the zoo's actual opening date back in 1937 – and encouraging visitors to join a 5km sponsored walk around the 40-acre site to raise money.

This will go towards their am-

bitious anniversary appeal to raise £800,000 for a new separate outdoor space for the zoo's much-loved great apes. Marketing manager, Andrea Hales, said: "Our anniversary is fast approaching and we're looking forward to marking DZG's past 80 years, celebrating our present and fund-raising for our future projects."

"We're encouraging our supporters to join in the fun and dress in clothing from the zoo's opening

era – the 1930s and 1940s – or in fancy dress and then join us for a party in the castle courtyard during the afternoon."

The walk starts at 11am and registration costs £6 per adult and £3 per child aged between three and 15, which includes zoo admission.

Everyone is encouraged to raise at least £50, with every penny put towards the new enclosure.

To register call 01384 215313.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Goldie to shine at Civic Hall gig

Walsall-born Goldie will perform in Wolverhampton this year, it has been announced.

The star, aged 51, will play with the Heritage Orchestra at the Civic Hall on November 23. He will also perform at MADE Festival in Birmingham on July 29.

Speaking ahead of his Journey Man tour, Goldie – who spent much of his youth growing up in Wolverhampton – said: "This will be one of a kind, a culmination of everything past, present and future in my music, like it has never been heard before, live."

### Alert about men asking for money

POLICE have issued a warning after reports of men knocking on doors asking for food and money.

Officers have sent out the alert after the men were reported calling in the Low Hill area of Wolverhampton.

The two men asked those who answered to give them food and money. The warning said: "Beware, bogus callers are operating in this area. Don't be their next victim." Those concerned are advised to "stop" before they answer the door, and think "am I expecting anybody" then "secure the bar or chain before opening the door."

### Health staff are on award shortlist

Three staff members from a Black Country NHS trust have been short-listed for a national award.

Sarah Clarke, Victoria Perry and Kate O'Connor from the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have been nominated in the educator-of-the-year category in the Student Nursing Times Awards.

Their award entry included testimonials about their work from students and colleagues. The winners will be announced in London.

### Bidding now open in mayor charity auction

A BLACK Country mayor has launched a charity auction – with 38 items up for grabs.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Barry Findlay announced the start of the online auction yesterday. On offer in the auction is a weekend stay at a luxury spa hotel with an off-road Land Rover driving experience, donated by Jaguar Land Rover.

To bid, visit wolverhampton.gov.uk/mayoral and follow the link to the auction page.

### Clean-up to shut street

PEDMORE Lane in Stourbridge will be closed from Gauden Road to the borough boundary to enable workers to carry out street cleaning. It will be shut on Sunday, May 7, from 6am through to 1pm. Access to frontages will be maintained where it is safe to do so.

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COUNTY NEWS

45pc increase in temp vacancies

DEMAND for temporary professionals in the West Midlands has risen by 45 per cent in the year to March, according to the Association of Professional Staffing Companies.

The data, provided by recruitment software company, Innovantage, revealed that in addition to a rise in temporary roles, permanent vacancies also experienced an increase, rising 18 per cent for the year.

Demand for professionals rose notably across sectors including IT and media, which recorded uplifts of 38 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

Charity steps up in bowel cancer fight

A POLL commissioned by Bowel Cancer UK's Step up for 30 fundraising challenge has revealed 64 per cent of adults living in the Midlands were not aware a lack of regular physical activity increased the risk of bowel cancer.

Research shows regularly taking part in 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity, such as cycling or fast walking every week, can decrease your risk by as much as 12 per cent.

A recent survey revealed more than 20 million people in the UK did not reach or exceed the minimum target. For more information, log on at [www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/stepupfor30/](http://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/stepupfor30/)

Jump for joy with inflatable course

THE world's longest, continuous inflatable obstacle course will visit Wolverhampton later this year. The course, which is more than 1,000 feet long, is on a UK tour will be at Wolverhampton Racecourse on June 30 to July 2.

They will host events where teams of five will compete against each other in a timed competition. Trophies will be awarded for the fastest three teams each week. Full details at [thelabyrinthchallenge.com](http://thelabyrinthchallenge.com)

House woes having an impact on health

MORE than one in four adults in the West Midlands suffer mental health issues due to housing problems.

The report from Shelter and Com-Res shows 28 per cent have experienced problems including long-term stress, anxiety and depression due to a housing problem.

Anyone struggling with bad housing and homelessness in the West Midlands can contact Shelter Birmingham on 0344 5151800 or go to the website, [www.england.shelter.org.uk](http://www.england.shelter.org.uk)

German market dates

DETAILS for the ever-popular German market in Birmingham, the biggest of its kind outside Germany and Austria, have been announced. This year's market, known as the Frankfurt Christmas Market, will start on November 16 and finishes earlier than last year, on Christmas Eve.

Nearly £350,000 paid out over damage

DRIVERS in Staffordshire have received nearly £350,000 in compensation in the past four years because of potholes – with new figures revealing the worst roads in the county.

Figures obtained in a Freedom of Information Act request show Staffordshire County Council shelled out a whopping £347,389.60 between 2012 and 2016 to drivers whose cars were damaged because of the pothole

problem plaguing the county's roads.

The figures also reveal the problem roads around the county, including junction 11 of the M6, Enville Common Road in South Staffordshire, Keepers Lane in Codsall and Burnhill Green Road near Pattingham.

The single highest payout for a driver came in 2014 when one motorist received £4,621.65 after a collision with a pothole at the junction

of Somerset Road and Kent Road in Stafford. Another mammoth payout came in 2015 when one driver received £3,574.98 in compensation after their car was badly damaged on Langley Road on the outskirts of Wolverhampton.

Cannock Chase councillor Gordon Alcott, who previously claimed there must be a pothole on every road in the district, said: "The one before for the

Toll Road has got a series of craters, that is how bad they are. Then the island for junction 11 itself has potholes all the way around it. Motorists are having to try and weave their way around them, it is very dangerous."

In total 3,985 successful and unsuccessful compensation claims due to potholes were submitted to Staffordshire County Council between 2012 and 2016.

Potholes: Motorists are paying the price



MOTORISTS are paying the price of the crumbling roads across the region our potholes campaign has uncovered with drivers contacting us to reveal damage being caused to their cars.

We have received a number of images of damaged tyres and alloys caused by vehicles hitting potholes as readers highlight some of the worst roads in Staffordshire and the Black Country.

And a Freedom of Information act request has shown how much is being paid out in compensation by Staffordshire County Council because of our pothole-ridden roads.

Councillor George Adamson, who represents the Hednesford and Rawsley areas which have been highlighted as a concern by readers, has welcomed the Chronicles' campaign.

He said: "I welcome the Chronicles' Top of the Pots campaign. It highlights one of the major concerns of local people. Staffordshire has become the pothole capital of England.

Invest

"We need to invest in improving our roads and do it urgently. Staffordshire residents deserve nothing less. The pothole plague has to be dealt with, and sooner rather than later."

This week reader Sue Gulley has told us of damage caused to the wheel and tyre of her car after hitting a pothole in South Staffordshire.

She said: "The hole was full of water so we never saw it. The road is very bad, Hilton Lane.

"We were on our way to attend my Dad's 80th Birthday meal with family at Coven and due to the incident we had to cancel.

"My husband was filthy having to change the tyre at the side of the road and by time we had done this was not worth us going, an event which meant a lot to all of us and was ruined due the council not dealing with issues that have already been reported to them, the road is a disgrace.

"I pay my road tax, why should I then pay for a repair that was caused due to no fault of my own. I shall fight for my money back. "

Russell Withey suffered damage to his wheel when he hit a pothole near Gentleshaw Common in Staffordshire, as drivers turn off Chorley Road into Com-



Raymond Drury is complaining about potholes in Romsley Road, Stourbridge



Sue Gulley measures the depth of the pothole which caused damage to the wheel and tyre of her car

monsie Road. He is still waiting to hear if he will be compensated for the damage.

Simon Hall of Anson Road in Great Wyrley also sent in pictures of the terrible condition of the roads near his home.

Raymond Drury emailed us pictures of potholes in Romsley Road, Stourbridge. He said: "What is interesting is that the council have been repeatedly repairing holes here for over 20 years as there is some form of water leak underneath.

"A clue for the council 'cure the water leak first'."

Reader P Garrett flagged up problems on the A4601 in Cannock at the island which meets the A5 and added: "Both carriageways are covered in



Russell Withey suffered damage to his wheel from a pothole near Gentleshaw Common



Simon Hall of Great Wyrley sent in pictures of the terrible condition of the roads nearby

about 10 potholes and there's nowhere to drive around, you just have to let the car take a battering."

The Chronicle has been inundated with reports of huge potholes and badly damaged roads since launching our campaign a month ago. We want to identify the top 10 pothole blackspots in the region to flag up to our councils.

If you know of any pothole-ridden routes or deep holes email details, preferably with a picture, your name and any comments you would like to make to [Sue.Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:Sue.Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk) or drop us a line at Editorial, The Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Backing for homes plan at the site of old baths

HOMES finally look set to be built on the former site of a swimming baths – seven years after controversially closing its doors.

Plans for 28 homes on the Coseley Baths site have been recommended for approval after being formally lodged with council bosses.

Years of uncertainty for people living nearby, who have demanded to know what will happen with the land, appear to be coming to an end.

A homes scheme stalled last year following opposition from residents but Public Sector PLC, a private company part owned by Dudley Council, has now come back with fresh proposals.

The 1.5-acre site on Pear Tree Lane has become overgrown since the baths were bulldozed in 2010 following an acrimonious campaign to try to save them.

Planning officers at Dudley Council have indicated they are ready to back the plans, with the final decision due to be made by councillors on May 2.

The development would feature a mix of two, three and four-bedroom homes with existing access to the baths site to be retained.

However, 13 objections to new plans have been raised by neighbours who feel there will be too many homes on the site and the development will bring more traffic to the area.

But a report from planning experts at Dudley Council said the development was considered acceptable and would have a 'positive impact on the character of the area'.

Fundraiser to keep going for 24 hours

A MEGA 24-hour badminton tournament is set to take place in Kingswinford in a bid to raise money for those affected by cancer.

The 'badmintonandon' event will take place from 5pm on May 12 at Kingswinford School until the same time the following day.

Paul Scrivens and his pals set up the event to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Mr Scrivens, aged 32, who has played badminton for 25 years, said: "My mum is currently recovering from cancer and I saw the first hand the fantastic work that the Georgina Unit do at the hospital with so little."

Entry costs £5 per person per hour they play. For more information visit [www.facebook.com/badmintonandon](http://www.facebook.com/badmintonandon)

Diversion in place as road is closed

A road near Halesowen and Stourbridge will be closed on May 14.

Foxcote Lane will be closed from 6am until 1pm for a cleansing operation. A diversion will be in place on Wynnall Lane South, Wynnall Lane, Oldnall Road and vice-versa.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Weeds tackled in area spruce-up

A campaign group completed its latest project to spruce up a Black Country town centre.

Halesowen North councillors Hilary Bills, Stuart Henley and Karen Shakespear rolled up their sleeves to tackle weeds in planters in Shell Corner.

They form the Shell Corner Partnership group together with Reverend Mike Sermon, of St Paul's Church in Blackheath.

Councillor Stuart Henley said: "The wedding session went well. We planting some little sapling bushes and cut out some weeds."

Rival moves to buy iconic carpets firm

A KIDDERMINSTER carpets firm has bought a local rival, which is one of the country's oldest and most prestigious independent manufacturers.

Brockway Carpets (Holdings)'s acquisition of The Grosvenor Wilton Company Limited, heralds a new era for the historic brand.

The deal sees Brockway purchase the trade and assets of Grosvenor Wilton, which has created the finest Wilton and bespoke carpets since 1790 for the world's most historic palaces, stately homes, public buildings and private residences.

Road safety drive targets the young

A leading young driver road safety charity has been commissioned by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver up to 1,000 additional places on its Pathfinder Project over the next four years.

The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust has been commissioned by West Mercia PCC, John Campion.

The commissioning will ensure that the Trust will deliver the programme to rising 17s across the whole West Mercia area and beyond.

Crowds flock to see water mill in action

Crowds flocked to see one of Britain's last working water-powered forge mills in action near Hagley.

Churchill Forge water mill produced metal tools such as spades, shovels and ladles until the early 1970s, and was open to the public on Easter Monday.

It is being maintained by volunteers as an important example of the industrial heritage of the West Midlands. The forge is open to the public again on May 13 and 14, June 11, July 9 and September 10 from 2pm to 5pm.

School's Race for Life

A CHARITY race will be held at a secondary school in a Black Country borough tomorrow.

Pupils at Summerhill School, Lodge Lane, Kingswinford, are taking part in their own Race for Life fundraiser from 4pm. They hope to raise more than £4,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Step up to the bar and raise funds for hospice

A HOSPICE is organising a community event on the canal network, which will take supporters on a walking tour of scenic surroundings.

There are four walks available, which are all taking place on May 21 in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

The walks will coincide with the inspirational 125-mile walk being taken on the same weekend by a group of hospice supporters, who will be raising money for the charity for walking for 56 hours without sleep or rest.

All four walks will end at The Maverick at the bottom of Bretell Lane, Amblecote, and the pub will be welcoming walkers throughout the day, before a big end-of-walk celebration at 8pm, to welcome home the team walking the 125 miles.

The walks will be at staggered starts throughout the day, with a 24-mile walk from Bridgnorth starting at 8am, a 15-mile walk from Stourport Basin starting at 10am, a nine-mile walk from The Lock at Wolverley starting at 12pm and a 4.5-mile walk from The Vine at Kinver at 2pm.

There will be numerous checkpoints along the route, and the hospice is appealing for anyone who would like to volunteer their time to man those checkpoints on the day to email laura@msmfundraising.co.uk.

Laura Millard, community engagement officer, Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "We're privileged in this area to have a gorgeous canal network right on our doorstep."

Visit [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/charity-canal-walk](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/charity-canal-walk).

Action call over speeding drivers

ROADS bosses have been urged to take action to stop speeding on a busy high street.

Councillors have said measures are needed to make drivers slow down on High Street, Quarry Bank.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill said he had received reports about motorists going too fast, including an elderly man whose legs were injured when his car door was shut onto them, and has requested talks with council highways officers.

He said: "We need traffic measures to stop speeding on Quarry Bank High Street. There was an elderly gentleman getting out of his car and the speed of the car coming down the High Street shut the door back onto his legs and injured his legs."

Change of date for cider festival

AN UPPER Gornal pub has switched the dates for its next cider festival from next month to the summer.

The event at The Jolly Crispin, Clarence Street, will now be held from June 30 to July 2.

Inspectors raise court cells concerns

COURT custody facilities across the West Midlands need to improve, according to prison bosses.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), led by chief inspector Peter Clarke, has raised 'significant concerns' with court cells and the way people are handled in courts in the region.

Among the concerns include the 'often unnecessary' use of handcuffs and detainees spending long periods in cells waiting on solicitors.

A report prepared by Mr Clarke after HMIP toured facilities across the region in December stated: "The

application of handcuffs in the physically secure court custody facilities was often unnecessary.

"There was a listings protocol, and we saw a number of cases in which children and vulnerable detainees were prioritised. However, several factors contributed to too many detainees being held in court custody for unnecessarily long periods.

"These included: delays in the attendance of duty solicitors and court interpreters and detainees being brought from prison early in the morning to Crown courts, when their

cases were not listed until the afternoon.

"Investment in many parts of the estate was required in order to address some of the unacceptable conditions we found for detainees."

Inspectors also found 'significant amounts' of graffiti on cell walls some of which was 'offensive'. However the courts were also praised for their 'good' working relationship with key agencies and their 'adequate' level of staffing.

Mr Clarke's report added: "Working relationships between the three key

agencies responsible for delivering the court custody provision were good. It was positive that the key stakeholders, in particular HM Courts and Tribunals Service, accepted responsibility for the overall care and welfare of detainees. As with other recent inspections, the provision was hampered by ineffective delivery of the cleaning and maintenance contract, for which none of the involved agencies was directly responsible.

Speaking after his report released, Mr Clarke said the inspection had been 'reasonably positive'.

PM's battle cry during visit to Black Country



\*\*\* importance of the Black Country in the forthcoming General Election was highlighted this week with Theresa May heading to Dudley to campaign.

\*\*\*1 days after announcing the snap election the Prime Minister arrived at the heart of the Black Country which she described as a 'very important battleground'.

\*\*\* comments come as the Conservatives look to snatch seats away from Jeremy Corbyn's Labour in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton at the election on June 8.

\*\*\* Tories have earmarked Walsall North, Dudley North and Wolverhampton South West as key targets.

\*\*\* at Netherton Conservative Club at the weekend, Mrs May said: "The Black Country is very important and is going to be a very important battleground for the next election.

\*\*\* vote that is cast here is going to be important for the future of our country. It will be a vote for a stronger Britain in the future."

\*\*\* South MP Mike Wood said: "This visit shows that she is determined to win not only in Dudley South but also others seats in the area.

\*\*\* North, Walsall North, Wolverhampton South West – these are all seats Conservatives will be fighting extremely hard for."

\*\*\* the Prime Minister had been out campaigning around Alderdale Avenue in Sedgley.

\*\*\* street is in Dudley North, which Labour MP Ian Austin fought hard to defend at the last election. In 2010 he had a majority of just 1.1 per cent.

\*\*\* Avenue is also on the border of Wolverhampton South West, which has swung between the main parties in the past two elections. Labour had just a two per cent majority at

the last general election and the Conservatives are hopeful of overturning that, especially after current MP Rob Marris announced last week he would not be seeking re-election.

\*\*\* the visit the Prime Minister again refused to rule out the possibility raising taxes but insisted the Conservatives remain the party of 'lower taxes'.

\*\*\* controversial prospect, believed to be the work of Chancellor Phillip Hammond, has seen the Tories face a setback in the polls.

\*\*\* Hammond has hinted he would like to drop the promise of no tax rises because it restricts his options for dealing with Brexit.

\*\*\* the news, a Survation poll put the Conservatives on 40 per cent, followed by

Labour on 29 per cent and the Lib Dems and Ukup on 11 per cent each. It means Mrs May's lead over Jeremy Corbyn nearly halved in four days – with some potential Tory voters also angry that she is refusing to step back from David Cameron's huge overseas aid commitment.

\*\*\* in Netherton, Mrs May was three times offered the chance by journalists to make it clear her party would not be raising taxes – something it pledged for the last General Election – but declined to give a straight answer.

\*\*\* was first asked if, following news that Britain was no longer at the front of the queue for a trade deal with Donald Trump, there was a 'distinct possibility' taxes would be raised.

\*\*\* replied: "Lets be very clear on the issue

of taxation, people in this election are going to have a very clear choice.

\*\*\*I will have a choice between a Conservative party which always has been, is, and will continue to be a party that believes in lower taxes and in keeping taxes down for ordinary working people.

\*\*\* the other choice is the Labour party whose natural instinct is always to raise taxes."

\*\*\* asked if she was 'not ruling out all forms of tax rises', Mrs May replied: "When people come to vote they will have a choice between two parties.

\*\*\* strong and stable leadership that will be in the national interest and doing the right thing under the Conservatives or a weak and unstable

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews

# Doormat bags are not that charitable

A COLLECTION bag with a big logo for a cancer charity dropped on the doormat a couple of weeks ago. Having long been a sceptic about the organisations which carry out these collections, I put it back on the doorstep straight away. And despite the bag saying it would be collected the following Thursday, you will not be too surprised to find that it is still in my possession.

Anyway, sick of the sight of the thing, I decided to take a closer look. The small print on the back revealed it was not from a charity at all, but a private company which makes donations from its revenue towards the charity featured boldly on the front.

A bit more digging around reveals the same company has twice carried out unlicensed – and therefore illegal – collections in Bolton. It has also been stripped of its licence to operate in Torfaen, Monmouthshire, after donating just £12.50 to charity from a collection worth more than £250. That is a pitiful five per cent.

If I have any used clothes, jewellery or books that I want to give to charity, I think I will be taking them to my local charity shop in future.

THE marketing team for nasty American lager brand Budweiser has caused a bit of controversy with its latest publicity stunt, which saw staff roll up in a 4x4 and start handing out cans of Bud Light to vagrants in the street.

I guess that's what they call knowing your market.

MEANWHILE, down in the Big Smoke a somewhat disgruntled electrician returned a burger he bought from McDonalds, claiming somebody had already taken a bite out of it.

The burger chain has investigated closed-circuit television footage, and says it is a mystery how it happened.

But it does remind me of the time that I bought some pork scratching from a rather down-at-heel corner shop in the Black Country, only to find they had already been opened.

Returning, somewhat unhappily to the shop, I explained to the assistant what had happened. Her reply?

"It'll save yo openin' 'em, wo' it!"

THERE are some rather strange special offers on at the W H Smith branch at Heathrow Airport at the moment. One promotion offers 48 Cadbury's Flakes for £45, there is a similar deal on Kit-Kats, while you can also get 24 Bounties for £22. Doesn't strike me as particularly good value, but you always pay through the nose at airports.

I bet whoever buys them will end up sat next to me.

# Remember warning on the unexpected



Theresa May – will she return with a bigger Conservative majority?



Liz Truss announces 'fast track' system to remove foreign deportation dodgers



President Erdogan – success in referendum in Turkey means he can rule as sultan

# Election: We May all be surprised

WE all know what ought to happen. If you believe the polls and rely on past experience, Theresa May will be returned after the General Election with a bigger Conservative majority. Labour will be stuffed and Jeremy Corbyn will be sacked. But these are not normal times and the old rules may no longer apply. So I would not put a large bet on any of the above predictions coming true. And we could do worse in the coming weeks than remember Harold Macmillan's warning of the unexpected things that can upset every plan: "Events, dear boy, events."

JUSTICE Secretary Liz Truss has announced a new "fast track" system to remove foreign deportation dodgers within 25 days of their claims being rejected. We'll believe that when we see it, thanks.

"HUMANITY is destined for eternity, and death is the means by which we reach that joyful beginning," declared an archbishop on Radio Four's Prayer for the Day. If clerics are to be allowed to broadcast such claims, they should at least be obliged to carry the caveat that professional psychics and mediums are forced to display by law: "For entertainment purposes only."

SOME pundits say President Erdogan's success in the referendum in Turkey will give him enough power to rule as a 21st century sultan. This is bad news for his wife Emine who will, of course, become a sultana. But maybe, as his nation's currant leader, this is Erdogan's raisin d'être. That's enough dried-fruit nonsense.

I WAS walking down a street the other day, clocking the cars on the drives, and realised to my surprise that more than half of them were diesels. So quite how the proposed diesel-scrapage scheme will work is anyone's guess. Figures of up to £2,000 have been ban-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



died about for vehicles more than 10 years old, on condition you buy a cleaner non-diesel car. But who in their right mind would willingly take that sum in exchange for, say, a 2007 Range Rover which still has a book value of £10,000 or more? And can anyone guarantee that this scheme will not be hijacked by Britain's thriving car-crime industry? The theory is that tens of thousands of perfectly sound diesel vehicles will be taken off the road and crushed. But how many will be spirited away in shipping containers, to carry on polluting in some other far smoggier corner of the Third World? Whitehall's bean counters are said to be doing the sums. So, too, I bet are the ungodly.

THE world's oldest person, Emma Morana, has died aged 117 in northern Italy. These so-called supercentenarians rarely agree on the reasons for their long lives. One will advocate being teetotal while another will swear by a daily double whisky. One will praise chocolate but another will say it's all due to pickled shark meat or yak yoghurt. Mrs Morana attributed her great age to her family's genes, two raw eggs a day and chucking out her abusive husband in 1938. Take your pick.

THE usual legion of instant experts has been queuing up on social media to assure us that North Korea's missiles which rumbled through Pyongyang last week are not missiles at all but an assortment of plastic and plywood models. See? You can tell by the wonky warheads. One Daily Telegraph reader claims he saw a similar parade in North Korea some years ago and

the "missiles" were actually made of wood. Now, this may be ringing a bell with some older readers. Back in the 1930s, before the Second World War, one of the most popular urban myths concerned a friend of a friend who had been on a cycling holiday in Germany and came across a military exercise. And guess what? The German "tanks" were no such thing. They were just cars covered with hardboard sheets to look like tanks, with drainpipes for guns. It's just Adolf pulling the wool over our eyes, right? A couple of years later, thousands of Adolf's tanks, with real armour and real guns, swept the British Army aside and conquered France in a matter of weeks.

IF you believe it is possible to knock somebody out with a cricket bat for just a few minutes, rather than killing or merely stunning them, and if you also believe that a young, terrified and drunken teenager can be forced to rape an unconscious woman against his will, then you presumably think the finale of Broadchurch (ITV) was brilliant. The rest of us acknowledge that some of the acting was excellent. But the plot? Absolute piffle.

LAST words on our recent trip to Cornwall. However they may be marketed, The Lost Gardens of Heligan are not all that lost. It only took us 20 minutes to find them.

LIKEWISE, the 'Lost Valley' within the Lost Gardens was remarkably easy to locate. You just buy the map at the ticket office and follow it to the place marked 'Lost Valley'. I may be missing something.

OUR changing language. A kerflaver, invented accidentally by a pal at the weekend, is a cross between a kerfuffle and a palaver. It's a bit like a paluffle.

## TALKING POINT

# Long and winding road is part of holiday

TAKE a look at this family enjoying their ideal holiday, free from the strains of everyday life. There's the children, itching to get onto that golden beach, then there's Mom, telling them to not go too far into the sea, and what about Dad? Well, he's quite happy reading his newspaper, thank you very much.

It's a delightful scene, and one which thousands of families will be replicating this summer (all right, Dad will probably be tapping away at his smartphone apps, but you get the picture). And a picture it most definitely is, because this family doesn't exist. They are actually on a poster above the table where I'm enjoying a pint and a bite to eat in a pub during a well-earned week's holiday.

The poster is a reprint of a British Railways advert from many years ago, in the days when travelling by train to your chosen resort was full of sunny promise.

These days, the station being advertised no longer exists, the site now obliterated by a modern housing development. In fact, the line isn't there either, with little evidence of there ever having been a rail service in that part of the world.

Fast forward to the hectic pace of the 21st Century and far from being part of the holiday, the journey to any holiday destination is merely a means to an end, the aim being to get along the motorway and A-roads in the fastest time possible, not forgetting a break at the services, of course.

However, there can be an enforced treat in store when you least expect it. In my particular case, the motorway was closed, in both directions, due to a lorry fire, necessitating a lengthy detour to get round the blockage. There was nothing else for it but to look for a route that ran roughly parallel with the motorway . . . which was where the overlooked delights of this island we call Great Britain began to reveal themselves.

Yes, it was a long and winding road with countless irritants such as traffic lights, speed limits, and queues to get through bottlenecks, but it soon started to create an idea of what going on holiday by car used to be like. It wouldn't have surprised me to see a friendly bobbie or two waving cheerily to passing motorists.

The scenery was better for a start, and some of the towns and villages looked as if they actually might be a good choice for a holiday themselves. But in the spring sunshine, the overall impression was that this was where the holiday really started, adding as it did to the mounting expectation.

That family in the BR poster would have approved of this leisurely diversion. I just hope Dad could stay calm in the face of cries of "Are we nearly there, yet?" coming from the back seat.

Wherever you go, and however you choose to get there, remember to make the most of every minute!

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# Has council completely lost the plot?

HAVE Dudley council lost the plot? First of all we had a councillor saying they were to charge for emptying the green bins.

After protests the council did a U-turn. Then we had closing and demolishing three leisure centres and building two new ones.

It was said it would be cheaper to do this. Guess what, another U-turn after protests from the people that use them.

Then we have the suggestion of moving the council refuse tip in Stourbridge to Brockmoor.

Again it was said it would be cheaper

to do this, despite the fact that there are two large council car parks unused next to the tip.

Just think of the added traffic if they moved this? I am waiting for a U-turn on this.

Then we are now reading reports of unhappy market traders some who have traded for over 60 years in Dudley.

The market traders say the new contracts are unfair and will send some of them to the wall.

They say the council won't even talk to them. Bearing in mind the coun-

cil has just spent over seven million pounds on improving the stalls.

You would think they would be more interested in ensuring the stalls are taken up with happy traders, which brings in people shopping to Dudley.

How long will it be before someone at the council has some common sense and says: "I think we ought to talk to the market traders".

Again is this going to be a U-turn? I certainly hope so and by the way I agree with the U-turns.

**BOB WHITEHOUSE**  
Kingswinford

## We had a long wait for the vote

THOSE of us who voted out in 1975 had to wait 41 years for a second EU referendum, so by my calculations die-hard remainers calling for a third must be patient until 2057. Now they know how we felt back in those bad old days.

Those who fear a 'hard-Brexit' are either too young or choose not to remember the turmoil of our hard entry into the EEC in 1973 when we were dragged in with no referendum. A few remainers are so bitter that they actually relish the prospect of the EU giving Britain a severe kicking.

Perhaps they would be happier relocating to the continent and cuddling up to their federalist mates than staying to suffer the ignominy of living among Brexiteers.

The European Commission claim they have no wish to punish the UK. They have done very little else since the day we joined.

**BOB MONTROSE**  
Sedgley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

## Check where MPs' donations come from

WE live in a democracy in which we elect a person to be our representative in Parliament, one man, one vote, but does it really work like that?

The elected MP will proclaim unremitting zeal in the service of his constituents but will often put party, career and other influences first.

We read of lobbying companies who are retained by vested interests to solicit the help of MPs in promoting their own agendas. We read of MPs receiving donations of half-a-million pounds or £10,000 or a half day a week job that pays £150,000; are we really to believe that these donors expect nothing in return?

Two old maxims spring to mind, 'no man can serve two masters' and 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'.

**BRIAN OSBORNE**  
Dudley

## My advice: You must earn vote

SOMETIME back in the dark ages, Thatcher hired an advertising agency to help her win the election.

They did this by running one of the most negative campaigns to date. Since those days we have had numerous elections in which all parties now campaign in the most negative way.

This culminated in the EU referendum, in which both sides utilised tactics that included practically every negative device known to mankind. These tactics are still being employed today by several MPs.

These MPs still have not noticed that there has now been a major change in politics. No longer are the electorate prepared to sit back and accept the lies and deceit of self-interested politicians. Too many promises have been broken, too many lies have been told.

My advice to all candidates is this: if you want my vote, you have to earn it.

**Chris Jones**  
Brierley Hill

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# Inspirational Grace pens song on cancer battle

AN inspirational singer from the Black Country who is nearing the end of her treatment for an aggressive form of cancer has recorded a song about her battle with the disease.

In May last year, Grace Nkounkou-Issombe, 24, and husband Ambrose Ogbechie had just welcomed their first child Austin into the world when Grace started to have difficulty walking.

In July, the results of a biopsy on a lump on her right femur, previously diagnosed as benign, found osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, and treatment started immediately at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

## Decision

But in December, Grace made the difficult decision to have her leg amputated, as the chemotherapy wasn't proving as effective as hoped. Thankfully the most intensive part of her chemotherapy and other treatment is now over, and with the help of physiotherapists and a prosthetic, Grace is hoping to learn to walk again this year, while completing the rest of her treatment.

Throughout her ordeal, support for Grace and her family has been available from cancer support charity CLIC Sargent.

The charity works with young patients aged up to 25 and their families, and has an independent team based at the QE providing financial and emotional support to young people like Grace.

CLIC Sargent also runs a music programme which offers young people with cancer the chance to get involved in a range of activities to help them develop their song-writing and com-



Singer Grace Nkounkou-Issombe with son Austin

position skills, and grow as performers. It was through CLIC Sargent's music programme that Grace had the chance to professionally record her song entitled In your honour at the Summerfield Studios in Birmingham. The track is about how her faith has pulled her through her darkest times.

Grace said: "The song we've written means a lot to me. It's about how even when I've been in a dark place over the last year, I've never felt alone. "One of my favourite lines in the song is 'I am fearless when you walk with me,' because without my faith in God I think I might have been too scared, and given up."

"And even though it might sound strange to some people, cancer hasn't just been a negative experience. There have been a lot of positive things that have come out of all this. I've met so many special people on my journey who have helped me so much, and I have a different perspective on life now. Now I want to make the most of every day that I've got."

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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



PUPILS from Dormston School have been joined by other Dudley borough pupils at a special event to celebrate teenage reading.

The Dudley Teenage Book Awards, which is organised by Dudley Council's library service, invites pupils to read from a shortlist of books written for teenagers and vote for their favourite every year.

More than 300 pupils attended the event and the winner for best book was Peter Brunzi from North London, for his book Cogheart. Peter's book was praised by young people for being a modern classic.

Library customers, reading groups and school book groups were encouraged to read as many of the 2016 titles as possible but young people could still vote for their favourite even if they didn't manage to read all the nominations.

## Author's talk on new novel

AN author from the Black Country has spoken of her pride ahead of hosting a talk at her local library.

Briony Marshall is visiting Sedgley Library on May 3 to give a speech about her debut novel.

The 26 year old said: "I'm very excited to be giving a talk at my local library as the place holds many memories for me." To book call 01384 812790.

## FOCUS ON SEDGLEY AND GORNAL

# Five-way junction in line for £90,000 improvements

**A NOTORIOUS five-way junction in the Black Country will undergo £90,000 of improvements in a bid to improve traffic flow, it has been revealed.**

Work will take place at Himley Road and Bull Street in Gornal. New smart technology will be introduced on signals to improve traffic backlogs which have caused problems in recent months.

It was approved by the Black Country Joint Committee on last week.

Councillor David Stanley, who represents the Gornal ward, said: "As far as I am concerned any improvements we can make on it the better. It is incredibly busy on the crossroads with a three-way traffic light switch at the moment.

### Queues

"It can be very frustrating in the queues there and the traffic can build up right the way back to the Milking Bank island. This is good news that something will now be done about it."

The busy junction sits on the Himley to Dudley Road where Bull Street and Redhall Road lead into Gornal.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic de-

By Simon Stone

velopment, spoke of future plans for the area.

He said: "We welcome any opportunity to make junctions easier.

"It needs new signals but later on we may need to do something further than that because there are housing developments that are taking shape around there and that junction is key.

"We need to make it wider and bigger and will be exploring options similar to that of the works on Shaw Road in Coseley, but it will come down to funding.

"But in these current plans new technology should help with the traffic flow.

"We need to explore something better and if we do that it will be a bigger and more expensive job."

## Outcry over market trader contract changes



Councillor Patrick Harley and Bill Etheridge MEP, with traders at Dudley Market

OPPOSITION leaders have criticised Dudley Council for 'poorly managing' its contract negotiations with market traders.

Traders have protested over changes to their working terms and conditions in a new contract currently out to tender - which they say could kill off the market.

But the authority has moved to insist the market is not under threat from closure. Councillor Patrick Har-

ley, leader of the Conservative group in Dudley, and Councillor Bill Etheridge MEP, criticised Dudley Council's behaviour in the negotiation process.

They met traders who run businesses from the outdoor market on Dudley High Street to show their support.

Councillor Harley said: "I think the main concern of traders is the terms and conditions. The council should sit down with traders - not with one or

two - but all of the traders and go back to the drawing board."

Councillor Etheridge said: "I have sympathy for traders, it is another example of poor management."

Dudley Council's strategic director for place, Alan Lunt, said: "We can categorically state that we are not looking to close the market. We want to make it more attractive, bustling and vibrant." The new contract will come into effect from July 1.

## Evening of songs from big shows

A BLACK Country theatre group has announced details of its next performance.

Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company is performing a selection of musical pieces from stage and screen at Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley, on Saturday.

The concert, A Grand Night for Singing, will involve music from well-known musicals such as My Fair Lady, Jersey Boys, Les Miserables, Kiss Me Kate, Sister Act and Starlight Express.

The concert is part of the company's 70th anniversary celebrations, which will include a production of My Fair Lady at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in October.

Tickets are £8 each, with the performance starting at 7.30pm.

Call 0345 658 8095 to book tickets.

## Alert after chip pan fire

RESIDENTS across the Black Country are being reminded not to leave chip pans unattended after a kitchen fire.

Dudley fire station issued the reminder after attending a kitchen fire on Duke Street in Upper Gornal on Saturday night.

The damage to the house is unknown however it is not thought to be severe. The woman was uninjured.

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# New chapter for musician as character in horror book

HE is the eye-catching filmmaker and musician most people will recognise for being clean shaven on one side of his face while sporting lengthy locks and a full beard on the other.

Now Stourbridge's Nick J Townsend has conquered another medium after becoming a character in an American horror book.

The multi-talented entertainer is one of the main protagonists in Reaping Sorrows (Children of Enock Book 2) by author Edward Gehlert. Nick said: "He [Gehlert] contacted me about a year ago and said he had been following my career. Then he said 'I would really like to use you as a character in my book'.

"I thought 'great, but how?' He said if my band WEAK13 had of been around in the States at the time of the apocalypse it would be

interesting to see how I would handle it."

Nick spent around six months talking Gehlert through his own character including how he talks and reacts to different types of situations. He added: "He has made me a central character having to meet others in the book and explain who I am."

"It is a really well-written book. Unlike other books of this type you do not know if all of the characters are good or not. In one sense they are the heroes but there is also a lot of ambiguity about them."

"The bottom line is I am a fictional character in an American horror book."

Reaping Sorrows was published on April 6. It is the follow-up to Dark Harvest (Children of Enock Book 1) novel.



Stourbridge's Nick J Townsend features as a character in a new horror book

# Coach company driving forward

A BLACK Country coach hire company has expanded due to rising demand.

Greenline Coaches has now purchased three new vehicles. The Stourbridge-based company was supported with £500,000 funding from Santander Business Bank.

Bosses say the cash boost has enabled Greenline to respond to an increasing client base and high demand by purchasing three new coaches.

The coaches are 49-seaters, equipped with air suspension, toilets, air conditioning, Wi-Fi and drinks facilities. Andy Phillips, managing director at Greenline Coaches, said: "Our ethos of putting the customer first has proved to be very successful."

"It has put our company firmly on the map for great holidays, day tours and private hire in the Black Country. We would like to thank Santander and our customers old and new for supporting the growth of the business."

Matthew Smith, relationship director at Santander corporate and commercial, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been able to support the team at Greenline Coaches to grow their fleet."

# Bosses want access road in plan for office block

THE owners of the eyesore Cavendish House office block in Dudley want an access road to be created from a major dual carriageway before it is knocked down, it has been revealed.

Bosses behind a long-awaited redevelopment of the site have told council chiefs they need a road to be created from Duncan Edwards Way to draw shoppers to the area.

It could present yet another obstacle in the saga surrounding Cavendish House, which has stood empty for years.

A masterplan for the site would see the derelict office block bulldozed to be replaced by a retail and shopping development.

But owners Avenbury fear the site is currently too closed off to attract sufficient custom and want a road leading to the site to be created near the main dual carriageway, not far from Cousins furniture store.

## Venture

Cutting a new road into land off such a busy road would be a major venture, and Highways England would have to be brought on board.

It has been suggested a fast-food restaurant could be built on the access road as a way of attracting people to the site.

Dudley's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the site's owners needed to prove the development could create sufficient jobs and growth to get funding from the Black Country Local Enter-

By Richard Guttridge

prise Partnership (LEP) as it would be unlikely to provide cash for a demolition job alone. It all means the bulldozing of the building appears to be a way off.

Councillor Ahmed said: "They want to have another entry into the site near the bridge on Duncan Edwards Way. We are working with highways to make sure their request is reasonable."

"We are negotiating and talking and trying to see if we can help them."

"If it is something they feel needs to be added then we should support it."

"There are opportunities in Dudley with the bus station and the metro – all these things are exciting and we want to make this happen."

The latest twist comes after Councillor Ahmed called for Cavendish House to be knocked down as soon as possible and the planning chief reiterated his desire to see progress on the scheme.

If the building, off Trindle Road, is knocked down it is then hoped the area will be redeveloped creating homes, restaurants and shops.

# Walk will highlight mental health issues

A leading charity will be hosting a 10-mile walk to raise awareness of mental health.

West Midlands-based health and wellbeing charity, The Kaleidoscope Plus Group, will be Walking out of Darkness on May 6 to raise awareness of mental health and suicide prevention.

The walk across Birmingham will finish off with a family fun day at Canon Hill Park where there will be a showcase of mental health and wellbeing services. Dave Pickard, wellbeing services co-ordinator at The Kaleidoscope Plus Group, is urging people to take part and join in the fun.

He said: "I ask everyone based in the Sandwell and the Midlands area to come along and enjoy the fun. The aim is to unite together with your local community, walk at your own pace, along the Birmingham canals and help reduce the stigma by engaging in conversations with others."

For details visit [www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk](http://www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk)

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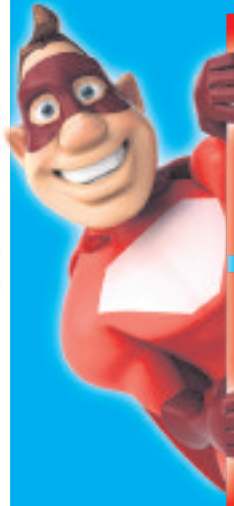
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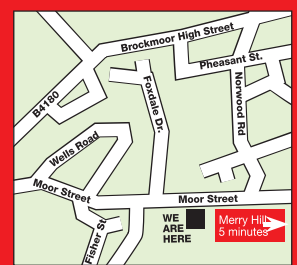
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## Award-winning firm has clear vision



Arwyn Jones, of Beacon Centre, with Rebecca Harrison, of winning company DHC Informatics

AN INNOVATIVE device which will improve the quality of life of thousands of people with double vision has received £20,000 after winning a top award.

The Beacon Centre and the University of Wolverhampton joined forces to offer the 2017 Beacon Visionary+ Challenge Award.

The winner has been announced as the 'lens slip occluder', which was developed by Staffordshire company DHC Informatics. The revolutionary device has been developed primarily to treat and alleviate diplopia (double vision) but it can also be effective in the treatment of visual disturbance

caused by such conditions as multiple sclerosis, stroke, head injury, cataracts and glaucoma.

The occluder is an optical device worn over a pair of glasses to improve vision when reading, watching television or using a computer.

The award consists of £10,000 social investment from Beacon and £10,000 worth of consultancy support from the University of Wolverhampton.

The winner was chosen from a shortlist by a panel of leading tech entrepreneurs and sight-loss experts.

DHC Informatics' director Rebecca Harrison said: "Diplopia is one of the most common vision disorders in the

UK today. There are over 100,000 MS sufferers and over 150,000 people suffer a stroke each year, more than half of whom will experience problems with diplopia or blurred vision."

Arwyn Jones, chief executive officer of Beacon, said: "We were particularly impressed with the presentation from DHC and the fact that their product can quickly get to market and benefit people with double vision disorders."

"Beacon is delighted that the competition prize will be used to help the business move forward and develop products. Our investment has inspired an innovative sensory solution that delivers on the aims of the charity."

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# Parents are jailed over tragic baby bath death

**THE** parents of a 13-month-old boy who drowned in a bath have been jailed for a total of eight-and-a-half years.

Kian Dale had been left alone in a bath seat in the upstairs bathroom in the home of Wayne Dale, aged 45, and his former partner Lisa Passey, 28.

When the child was in the water, in a seat suctioned to the bottom of the bath, the pair were downstairs socialising with a friend.

After about 15 minutes, Dale went upstairs and found the boy with his head and upper body immersed in water.

Passey called for emergency services and Dale tried to resuscitate the toddler while waiting for paramedics at the home in Kyreside, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.

## Negligence

An air ambulance was called and Kian was flown to Birmingham Children's Hospital but staff were unable to save him.

Following a two-week trial, both defendants were found guilty of manslaughter by gross negligence as well as cruelty to a person under 16 years. At Worcester Crown Court, Dale was sentenced to four years six months and Passey to four years.

Emily Lenham, of West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said: "Both defendants were fully aware that Kian, their 13-month-old child, had been left unsupervised in a bath full of water."

"The death of Kian Dale was tragic and completely avoidable."

Detective Inspector Justin Taylor, from West Mercia Police, said: "This has been a tragic case."

"Kian should have had the opportunity to enjoy his bath time while under the care of his mother or father."

"However, both Wayne Dale and Lisa Passey chose to leave him in a bath unsupervised upstairs for a significant period of time while they socialised downstairs. Their neglectful actions meant that Kian lost his life."

## Robert leads dream show



Top conductor Robert Emery, aged 34, who comes from Pelsall

As a small boy playing his piano along to Top of the Pops at his Pelsall home, Robert Emery dreamed of hitting the big time.

Now a professional conductor and pianist, he has landed a role working on the Bat Out Of Hell musical – one of the UK's biggest new stage shows.

He was chosen by Grammy Award-winning record producer Jim Steinman who was behind Meat Loaf's Bat Out Of Hell album back

in 1977 – one of the best-selling records of all time. Forty years after its release it has been converted into a stage show with 34-year-old Mr Emery conducting the music.

Mr Emery, who has worked on musical projects across the world including working alongside Russell Watson, has been conducting the show at the Opera House in Manchester since January before it heads to London Coliseum from June 5.

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Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association



Members were joined by Kidderminster Cadets on their march through the town



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## Marching ex-soldiers show pride in parade

**SCORES** of proud former soldiers from the Black Country and Staffordshire marched through Kidderminster as they exercised their freedom of the town, possibly for the last time.

The parade, organised by the Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association, saw more than 100 decorated former and current soldiers march through the town's streets.

They were accompanied by the Tenbury Wells Town Band.

However, it could be the last time the association parades around the town due to the ages of the former soldiers, as many are well into their 80s.

The start of Saturday's event saw the soldiers fall in at Batemans yard car park at 11.30am before heading off on the march around the town half an hour later.

### Cheer

As they made their way along the route, they were met by dozens of residents who lined the streets to take pictures and cheer.

Some of the former soldiers from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Mercian Volunteers, who make up the regimental association, had travelled from as far as America to be at the parade.

Ted Rowley, aged 74, a former platoon sergeant and founding member of the association, said: "The parade went great. There were people lining the streets, applauding and cheering us on. It will be the last parade like this for a lot of our members. Unless another

By Jack Averty

association organises an event like this then I think we will be sticking to the poppy day parade and other similar events."

Mick Whiten, a former soldier who attended the parade, added: "Thanks to all those that organised such a fantastic parade, it was really good to see such a lot of 'old' faces. A special thanks for making the effort must go to those that travelled long distances to be there."

As well as exercising the freedom of Kidderminster, the parade also marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers and the disbandment of the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

Kidderminster resident Vic Bozward said: "I enjoyed seeing everyone who served with the Mercian Regiment. The weather was great and the parade and drumhead service went very well. Thanks to everyone who helped to put it together."

The Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association, which has around 500 members, was formed in 1967.

## New centre opens to improve health

A new wellness centre aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Dudley has opened its doors this week.

The Albion House Surgery in Brierley Hill will be home to the centre and aims to create a place to give people the confidence to manage and improve their own health wellbeing.

The centre will offer a variety of alternative services to patients including bereavement advice, Citizens Advice and guidance from the Alzheimer's Society.

There will also be access to courses to help people who do not always need to see a GP and to educate them about other sources of help and support available to them.

Councillor Serena Craigie said: "We welcome the new centre, especially in Brierley Hill as it's one of the main areas in Dudley people travel to. It's fantastic news and will bring good services to the area."



## Adults' time to take the plunge

ADULTS keen to take the plunge and learn how to swim have been invited to take part in a series of swimming lessons at a Black Country leisure centre.

The Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge currently has spaces available for its swimming lessons on Thursdays at 10.15am, 11am and 1pm.

Each session lasts 45 minutes and costs £5.20 per person.

Alan Lunt, strategic director of place at Dudley Council, said: "Swimming is an essential life skill and we strongly believe it's never too late to learn."

"Our swimming lessons have always proved successful and I would encourage people to get in touch and take part."

Before taking part anyone interested should call Dudley Council on 01384 812800

# Past rivalries come to the fore as big three in battle

**DUDLEY North is set to see past rivalries renewed as the same three candidates from 2015 face-off in this year's General Election.**

UKIP's Bill Etheridge said he is 'up for the Brexit battle' as he confirmed that he would be bidding to represent the party in the June 8 poll.

It came after Theresa May's call for a General Election was backed in Parliament by 522 MPs for and just 13 against. And the election could be a case of 'as you were' from 2015, with

Ian Austin defending the seat he has held for Labour since 2005, and Les Jones once again considering throwing his hat into the ring for the Tories. Sedgley councillor and UKIP defence spokesman Mr Etheridge said he is hoping to get the nod for another crack at Parliament following his third place finish in the 2015 election.

"I always said that I'd have another shot at trying to get to Westminster after coming fairly close two years ago," said Mr Etheridge, who was third in the UKIP leadership contest last September. Mr Jones said he has spoken to the Dudley North Conservative Association over

the possibility of standing again this year. "It is something that I have considered, but I think whoever the candidate is for the Conservatives will have a good chance," he said.

Dudley North is likely to be considered a target seat for the Conservatives.

Labour currently holds a majority of 11 per cent, but in 2010 it was just 1.7 per cent.

Mr Austin, who grew up in Dudley and lives in the borough, said it was a huge privilege to have served the constituency as an MP. He said: "I've worked hard to stand up for folk in Dudley and I always will."

## Baby hurt as car hits pushchair

A BABY was taken to hospital after a car mounted a kerb and hit two women with a pushchair.

The 18-month-old child was thrown from the pushchair, which was left trapped under the car on Ashenhurst Road, Dudley, near Russells Hall Hospital, last Wednesday at around 3pm.

The car left the road hitting two women who were walking on the pavement.

The child suffered minor facial injuries and was taken to hospital along with a 24-year-old woman, who suffered bruising to her head and was given pain relief.

Another woman who was on the pavement and the driver of the car were not thought to be hurt.

## Last event before £3m revamp



Charity volunteers Ceri Cowley and her mother Jeanette at the day-care unit

A charity held its last coffee morning at one of its day centres before multi-million-pound work gets underway to develop it.

Mary Stevens Hospice welcomed families and residents to its day-care unit, located on Hagley Road, Stourbridge, for an Easter coffee morning.

A £3 million project will begin in May to increase the centre's capacity and meet the increasing demand for its services.

Laura Millard, community engagement officer, Mary Stevens Hospice, said people attending were in for a 'fantastic family day'. "As it's the last coffee morning we'll

host here, we're going bigger and better than ever before," she said. She added that the charity was 'absolutely delighted' character Paw Patrol made a special appearance.

The event was held to say a 'fond farewell' to the day services unit which has served families for 25 years.

Among the guests who enjoyed the event were Craig While, and Liz Green, with their son Dylan While, all of Amblecote

The work to develop the day unit is expected to last at least 18 months. It will aim to increase the capacity for users by up to 87 per cent.

## Comic Manford is to bring his new tour to town hall

TV comic Jason Manford is to perform in Dudley next year, it has been revealed.

He will be bringing his new tour - *Mudle Class* - to Dudley Town Hall on April 27, 2018.

It is currently the only date the star has confirmed for the Birmingham and Black Country area and has been labelled a 'massive coup' by town hall bosses.

Peter Jordan, town halls and entertainment manager, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to welcome Jason Manford back to Dudley Town Hall."

"It is a massive coup for the borough to be able to attract acts of this standing. Jason is one of the finest comedians of his

generation, and we're very lucky that he's decided to return to Dudley."

Tickets will go on sale from 10am tomorrow.

Manford is just one of a number of big names who will be performing at Dudley and Stourbridge town halls over the coming 12 months.

Other top acts lined up to perform include Jasper Carrott, Russell Kane, Paul Chowdhry, Doreen Tipton, Rich Hall, Jenny Eclair and Jethro.

Tickets for Jason Manford will cost £27.50 plus booking fees and will be available to buy from halls.co.uk or on 01384 812812.

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## Cameras roll on new Laurel and Hardy



Double take – Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly filming scenes for Laurel and Hardy movie Stan and Ollie

A STAR-STUDDER cast has started work on a movie about legendary comedy double act Laurel and Hardy – and will soon be heading to the Black Country.

Scenes have been filmed now in Bristol ahead of it being partly shot in Dudley later this year.

The movie, which focuses on the iconic twosome's final tour, stars comedian Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly.

Details of the filming in Dudley are being kept under wraps but it is possible the decision to come to the town could be linked to the Hippodrome theatre, where the duo appeared in 1947

and again in 1952 – staying across the road at the Station Hotel.

Alan Partridge star Coogan will play Lancashire-born Stan Laurel and American actor Reilly, who starred in Chicago and Kong: Skull Island, will appear as Oliver Hardy in Stan and Ollie.

Producers from the BBC announced a casting call for people from the West Midlands to be extras last month. An advert posted on [www.castingcollective.co.uk](http://www.castingcollective.co.uk) said: "Men and women of all ages wanted for filming in Birmingham and Dudley for a major feature film about Laurel and Hardy set in the 1950s."

"You must be over 16, legally allowed to work in the UK with National Insurance number. Good rates of pay."

Laurel and Hardy burst onto the Hollywood scene in the 1920s, appearing in more than 100 films together. They performed as a double act for more than 30 years.

Head of BBC Films Christine Langan hailed Coogan and Reilly as a 'dream casting' to portray the 'genius creative marriage' of the comedy duo.

The duo appeared in our sister paper the Express & Star following their appearance at Dudley Hippodrome in 1947, in which they were said to have 'rocked the packed house'.

# Rebuild sees Hickory's rising from the ashes

**A RESTAURANT completely destroyed in a blaze is well on the way to being rebuilt.**

Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath will reopen in around three months, after a fire gutted the site due to a fault in a refrigeration unit.

The restaurant in Kidderminster Road saw 15 firefighters tackle the flames, with around 100 firefighters on the scene at the height of the fire in August.

It had only opened in November 2015 on the site of the famous Kings-

fisher Club. The venue was demolished following the fire, with only the white fencing from the former restaurant remaining.

Ward councillor Dave Tyler said people living near by were looking forward to the reopening.

### Business

He said: "A lot of the people in the village are really overwhelmed and cannot wait for it to reopen."

"It'll also bring more jobs to the area and more business so it's really good news that it's planning to come back."

"They're building it at an incredible rate and I'm looking forward to

it opening again." Guests in the 22 rooms at the Kingfisher restaurant and hotel complex next door were evacuated when the fire broke out.

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were joined by 13 more appliances as firefighters battled the blaze at the barbecue-style restaurant.

But now the restaurant has proposed a relaunch date of July.

A Hickory's spokesman said: "We are delighted to confirm that due to the overwhelming level of support they have received from the local area, they will be rebuilding the restaurant and work is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2017."



Building work on Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath after the original restaurant was gutted by fire

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## Complex is sold off

A DUDLEY warehouse and showroom complex on the market for £1 million has been sold to a Birmingham developer, landlord and investment agent.

The price Western Trading Group paid is not being disclosed. The company says it intends to relocate one of its existing tenants to the site but has not identified the new occupier.

The property is a self-contained warehouse with a showroom, offices, yard areas and on-site parking and has a prominent road-front location in King Street.

The site also benefits from secondary access from Aberley Street.

# Shed fraudster who used eBay is relieved to have avoided jail term

**A FRAUDSTER who conned customers out of hundreds of pounds by promising them sheds which were never delivered has avoided prison.**

Steven Corbett, of Tack Farm Road, Stourbridge, advertised his Cradley Heath shed-making business via online site eBay and told customers he could only accept payment up front.

When the sheds never arrived he made excuses, including that a relative had died, and assured them deliveries would take place. There were at least 10

victims of Corbett's scam, with individual payments as large as £2,090.

He was bombarded with phone calls and emails by disgruntled customers when the sheds never turned up. Trading standards were alerted and visited Corbett's business, Pine Sheds.

Corbett was visibly relieved as he was given a suspended jail sentence at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday.

The court heard how customers agreed to pay for sheds on the understanding Corbett call to arrange a delivery date. One out-of-pocket customer travelled three hours from Hertfordshire to try and track Corbett down but found his unit deserted. Workers from

a neighbouring business informed him several others had also tried to find him.

The majority of the payments made to Corbett ranged between £500 and £800. In total he received £7,375, which he has now been ordered to pay back.

### Knowing

Mr Robert Cowley, prosecuting, said: "It quickly became apparent to this defendant that when he was taking orders and taking full payment in advance for the sheds he did so knowing he would not be able to complete the orders."

Corbett ripped off customers over a six-month period from January 2015.

Mr Cowley told how the rogue trader gave 'excuse after excuse' to one buyer. On one occasion he said he had a dying relative."

Corbett pleaded guilty to 10 counts of fraud by false representation and was given an eight-month prison term, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to pay back £7,375 as compensation. Recorder Geoffrey Kelly told him: "People lost money they worked hard for."

Mr Benjamin Williams, defending, said: "The defendant said he didn't maliciously go out to rip anyone off but go himself into a hole he couldn't get out of."

## Getting into the swing of things

SWINGAMAJIG is coming to Digbeth on Sunday, April 30, from the team behind Shambala Festival and curated by Birmingham's own Electric Swing Circus.

Music, dance, cabaret, art installations, street food and more feature at the one day urban festival that opens at 2pm and has an after party that follows until the early hours.

Various performing troupes will appear, showcasing circus tricks, magic, dance and burlesque. Music including electro swing, bassline, gypsy punk, swing, jazz and rockabilly will feature at various venues.

New to 2017 is the Swingamajig Bazaar, a vintage/craft market with street food under the railway arches - you don't need to buy a ticket for Swingamajig to visit the market, from 11am to 6pm.

For further details see swingamajig.co.uk website.

## Zoo-ming in on penguins



Section leader Nicola Wright with a Humboldt penguin at Dudley Zoo

ZOO keepers in the Black Country are raising awareness for an endangered breed of penguin to coincide with World Penguin Day this week.

Bird keepers at Dudley Zoo will be raising money for Sphenisco, which works in Chile and Peru to save the Humboldt penguin from extinction.

The attraction has a large group of Humboldt penguins, which is considered endangered in Peru and vulnerable in Chile.

Fundraising activities took place on Sunday where visitors were able to find out more about the species.

People also had the opportunity to take part in penguin-themed games for the chance to win an adoption of one of the new-

ly-hatched chicks. Section leader, Nicola Wright, said: "We had fun and games to help get our important conservation message out about the plight of Humboldt penguins, of which we have one of the largest captive colonies in the UK."

Humboldt penguins are found along the South American coastline in areas reached by the Humboldt current - a cold ocean current that runs north along the west of the South American continent.

The aim of World Penguin Day, which falls on April 25 is to raise awareness of the growing threat to the species

The date is also significant as it is usually the time that penguins begin their annual northward migration in the wild.

## Bird dies after being shot in act of cruelty

A HERON has died after being shot by an air gun in what has been described as a 'deliberate act of cruelty'.

The injured bird was found near a stream that runs through gardens in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, on Easter Sunday.

He was rescued by RSPCA inspector Suzi Smith who took him to Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre, near Tewkesbury. An x-ray showed injuries to his leg had been caused by air gun pellets.

The RSPCA said the heron was so badly injured he was put to sleep to prevent further suffering.

The charity today called for tighter laws and training for those using air guns.

Ms Smith said: "It is very distressing to think people take pleasure in causing harm to these beautiful and defenseless birds. This appears to have been a deliberate act of cruelty, which caused the heron to tragically lose its life."

## Charities bag £500

MORE than £500 has been raised for charity by a supermarket.

The money was raised for three charities during a weekend by Sainsbury's in Amblecote. Volunteers from Oxfam and Hall Green Retired Greyhound Trust were at the branch holding a collection, while footballers from Kewford Eagles West, helped customers pack their bags.

Kevin Healy, store manager, said: "We hope our support will really make a difference to the charities."

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# Future of beauty spot is now solid as a rock

# Let's hang on to the vintage Valli

WITH sweeping views overlooking dramatic red sandstone rock houses – it's a beauty spot that has been treasured for generations.

The year marks the centenary of the first 200 acres of Kinver Edge being donated to the National Trust.

In the years that followed this gift, more land was acquired and now the conservation charity looks after 350 acres of land as well as the unique Holy Austin Rock Houses.

Visitor numbers to the cave dwellings are rising all the time with 27,000 welcomed last year and 2017 expected to be even busier with predictions of the attraction passing the 30,000 mark.

## Memorial

Celebrations are planned to mark the 100th anniversary of that first donation of land which ensured it would always be somewhere that everyone could escape to. It all started because a family wanted to protect this much-loved site at the same time as honouring their late parents.

As the First World War raged in 1917, there were fears for the future of the countryside amid growing urban development. This prompted the Lee family to buy the land as a memorial to their parents, Grosvenor and Winifred Lee, who had both died during the previous year.

The Lee family also set up the Kinver Edge Committee – a group dedicated to conserving the area and would later fight for the restoration of the rock houses.

There are three levels of houses and in their heyday, between 1840s and 1870s, there would have been occupied by up to 11 families – a total of 40 people. Many were employed at



An old picture of a family there



How some properties look now



Some of the Rock Houses at the treasured beauty spot at Kinver

the nearby Hyde Ironworks but when it closed in the late 19th century, the number of families living in the dwellings dwindled.

The last two families moved out in the late 1950s but a cafe remained open capitalising on a surge in visitors to Kinver Edge.

The National Trust acquired the houses in the 1960s but they continued to fall into disrepair. By the 1980s, it was feared that demolishing them may be the only option but the Kinver Edge Committee stepped in and began restoring the properties, working alongside the National Trust.

In October 1997, volunteers opened the rock houses to the public for the first time.

Helen Selkirk, the site's visitor experience officer, said: "They are quite roomy inside and at the time they would have had everything they needed. It's amazing because they were extraordinary houses but the people living there were ordinary people."

"There was even a social class structure between the three levels with children from the houses on the upper level not being allowed to play with children from the lower level."

## REVIEW

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Genting Arena, Birmingham

**THERE is a scene towards the end of Jersey Boys – the musical about Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons – where the lead character says: "Like that bunny with the batteries I just keep going and going and going."**

And so it comes to pass as the real Frankie Valli is still performing in his 83rd year.

He doesn't bound about on stage like the Duracell rabbit, at his age you wouldn't expect him to. But, Oh what a night!

Valli cannot hit the high notes like he used to, but he was given an early chance to show off the falsetto with which he made his name as Dawn came four songs in.

## Video

Of course, Jersey Boys brings to light songs that are not readily associated with Valli, like Stay, Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You and Silence Is Golden and all featured here, the latter with help from two of his Four Seasons' backing singers

There were times, however, when it appeared he had too much helium intake.

After promising Birmingham he would have even more fun than the last time he was there, the concert began with a historical video montage and ended with pretty much everyone on their feet. There were young and old in the audience, too, indicative of the impact his music has had over the years.



Even in his 83rd year Frankie Valli just loves to perform

And we had a great view of proceedings looking straight ahead towards the stage.

My Eyes Adored You had the glow sticks out early on in front of us. There was also a Frank Sinatra tribute with Under My Skin and a medley of 60s material with Spanish Harlem, My Girl and Groovin'.

Beggin' and Grease were among the big hits that followed before the aforementioned Can't Take My Eyes Off

You had everyone up and the finish came with the four big number ones, namely Sherry, Walk Like A Man, Big Girls Don't Cry and Rag Doll with Let's Hang On to finish.

Valli may be going strong at the age of 82, but you know he won't last forever.

In the meantime, let's hang on to the pleasure he has given his millions of adoring fans in the last six decades.

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**H**e describes himself as an old man who wants to complain about the world but offer no solutions. Jon Richardson is the archetypal Grumpy Old Man – who is both grumpy and old before his time.

And the quietly sophisticated comedian will thrill fans when he headlines Birmingham's Hippodrome on Thursday as part of a national tour.

The show follows on from his recent TV hit, *How to Survive the End of the World*, for Channel 4, which was screened earlier this year.

He says: "The show was basically a small terrified man and his (would you believe it) even smaller and sometimes more terrified wife making a list of the things that they're scared might kill them, and then me going out and looking into them one by one, in the hope that I can come home and tell her, 'D'you know what, actually these are all irrational fears. We don't need to worry about any of them, and we can get on with our lives as normal'."

Jon was supposed to investigate major dangers, such as terrorism, but digressed into looking at the state of sausages and air pollution.

"I think I'm quite small, I don't think that helps. I feel quite small in a lot of ways. And I also think I'm right – we're all going to die of something, and there's just a lot of awful stuff in the world. I know that's not a particularly upbeat message, particularly coming from a comedian, but that's all that life is, really: Dealing with horrific stuff and trying to make it funny," he says.

## DEMEANOUR

"I think it's more that it impacts on my demeanour. We've had a couple of incidents where we haven't done things as a family: We'll avoid built-up areas, so there's times when we actually have changed events. But it's more that sort of constant fear of things just stops you being the person you'd like to be. I don't know if this has come across in our dealings so far, but I wouldn't say I'm a particularly sparkling, upbeat person to talk to. I need all the help I can get, so if I could at least not have that voice in the back of my head that's always telling me to look left and look right and look up, and breathe through my nose and not through my mouth, so it's double-filtered, and all those silly things, maybe I'd be a better person if I could live more in the moment."

Jon's wife is also a worrier and they often end up freaking one another out, rather than winding each other up. There are times when it might be easier for both of them to simply go and see a psychiatrist.

"It would, but that would be a selfish route to my goal! It would sort me out, but I am in the role of giving to the wider community, and that's why I'm willing to film my investigations and put them on telly. You will see a genuine upsurge in the wellbeing of Britain. I would say, in the 2-3 weeks after this, there will be an immediate spike. And then in the six to 12 months afterwards we'll start to see the economic benefit of my work."

Jon found a number of weird scenarios in his new TV show. The strangest was meeting a man called Troy in Canada.

"What you often find with these documentaries is that everyone you meet could easily have a documentary all to themselves. People's lives are fascinating, and this documentary was certainly like that. Every issue we looked into, you could have spent not just one documentary, but a series looking into it. As for Troy – there should be some Kardashians or Osbornes-style documentary. For a start there should be a webcam on him all the time, just so that we

Young fogey – Jon's old and grumpy before his time



*I wouldn't say I'm a particularly sparkling, upbeat person to talk to*

can tune in and watch him for a bit. He gave us so much footage. He's not just invented an anti-bear suit.

"He's invented what he thinks is an improved Kevlar. It's a lighter-weight, more flexible, bullet and bomb-proof outfit for the army, which he's just made himself in his garage. He's created a chemical which he says if you drop it in an ocean, it'll separate the oil from the water, so that you can clear up the oil from an oil spill in minutes rather than weeks.

"He's invented his own laser, which he points at his own head daily, to regenerate hair growth. He's one of the most intriguing people I've met in my life. We filmed with him in the bear suit, testing it by driving through a brick wall. The hours in his laboratory were so intense. We could have just aired that unedited. And there's a genuine possibility that he's invented something that could change the world, and no-one's listening to him. Because he sounds so intense, you end up just shuffling out of the room, because he's just terrifying to be with. But undoubtedly he was the most intriguing, and if I was more of a Louis Theroux type, I'd definitely go back and do a full week with him."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see **The Ticket** in your Express & Star every Friday.



Sheridan Smith in Funny Girl



## Funny Girl Sheridan is ready for her star turn

THE West End's brightest star, Sheridan Smith, is coming to Birmingham Hippodrome to reprise her role as Fanny Brice following record-breaking success in hit musical Funny Girl in London.

Funny Girl brought global fame to Barbra Streisand 50 years ago, on Broadway, in the West End and then as a movie musical, and boasts such iconic songs as People and Don't Rain On My Parade.

It tells the story of Fanny Brice who went from burlesque to Broadway, becoming one of America's biggest stage and radio stars of the 1920s and 30s.

Michael Mayer's revamp of the 1964 show features revisions by Harvey Fierstein of Isobel Lennart's original book, and of course retains the songs by Julie Styne and Bob Merrill.

Sheridan Smith won an Olivier Award for her starring role in Legally Blonde at the Savoy Theatre, and an Olivier for her dramatic role in Flare Path at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. In television she won a Bafta for her role in Mrs Biggs and praise for playing Cilla, after originally catching the eye in Gavin & Stacey and Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps.

Funny Girl is at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, May 8-13. For tickets visit [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

Funny Girl will visit Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from July 24 to 29 with Natasha J Barnes as Brice. She got excellent reviews when sharing the role with Smith in the West End. The male lead role of Nick Arnstein will be played by Chris Peluso in Birmingham and by Darius Campbell in Wolverhampton. Campbell is now a major stage star after pop hits as Darius.

## Rich pickings with American grouch



Rich Hall is rightly regarded as one of the funniest comedians to come out of the US in recent times.

And, as he is based in the UK most of the time, this country has, over the past three decades, had the benefit from his grouchy sense of humour.

Now we are about to enjoy more of his crotchety comedy, as he is on a nationwide tour with his new show Hoedown, coming to Stourbridge Town Hall on May 19 and Stafford Gatehouse on May 26.

The comedian, who has won both a Perrier (Edinburgh Comedy Festival) and a Barry (Melbourne International Comedy Festival) Award, is surely the funniest

curmudgeon in The West (with apologies to Jack Dee and Romesh Ranganathan).

Rich's straight-talking and acerbic comedy leaves his targets reeling and his audiences in stitches. He sends up whichever country he is in, but perhaps reserves his most trenchant scorn for his native USA, and since the arrival of President Trump, he's got plenty to take aim at.

Rich, who has presented such BBC 4 documentaries as Rich Hall's Inventing the Indian and Rich Hall's Presidential Grudge Match, says he is excited to be performing live once again.

"I love the fact that when a live show is over, it's gone. It's happened, and it will never

happen like that again. It can't be replicated. That's a great magical moment," he says

"In every single show, there are always two or three moments where I'm thinking, 'Wow, where did that come from?' You're constantly thinking on your feet."

One of the features of Rich's act is that he goes out of his way to find out about the town he is playing in and then improvise a song about it. "I try to tap into what is happening locally and address that musically."

"I like to do something custom-made every night. Once they realise you're not just trotting out your regular act, people think, 'He's made a real effort. He's on our side, so we're on his side'. Then you can take them anywhere."

## Quality of Mersey sound at Sunflower

Psychedelic pop with a Scouse flavour will be heard in Birmingham city centre when The Sundowners and Edgar Jones & The New Joneses join forces at the Sunflower Lounge on Thursday, May 4. Both bands have new albums out on Liverpool label Skeleton Key Records.

As a teenager Jones was in a band with Merseyside legend Ian McCulloch of Echo & The Bunnymen - who has his own gig at Bilston's Robin 2 on May 9 - before forming cult outfit The Stairs, and working with Paul Weller and Johnny Marr.

The summery sounding Sundowners feature the vocals of Niamh Rowe and Fiona Skelly. Fiona and Affie Skelly, on lead guitar, are siblings to The Coral's Skelly brothers. Birmingham band Cut Glass Kings will support at the Smallbrook Queensway venue.

## Magical circus tale hits The Road

One of the masterpieces of cinema, Federico Fellini's 1957 Oscar-winner, La Strada (The Road), is brought to the stage in a new adaptation at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from May 8 to 13 as part of a UK tour.

La Strada tells the tender tale of wide-eyed Gelsomina (Audrey Brisson, pictured) who is sold to the brutish circus strongman Zampano but Il Matto, the tightrope walker, tries to rekindle her broken spirit. Visit [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.



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CHOICE



**Tom Davis**

**Murder in Successville (BBC1, 11.25pm)**

Originality – it's a rare thing these days. Programmes come and go, but if one happens to be a major success, other companies come along and try to replicate it with a twist on the same format. Sometimes it works, but more often than not, it falls by the wayside – not that such a thing stops anybody else having a go. So when something that is truly new comes along, we should all sit up and take notice – and doff our caps at its creators. Murder in Successville certainly falls into the 'original' category, which means the brains behind it, Avril Spary and Andy Brereton, need to stand up and take a bow. Tom Davis heads the cast as DI Sleet, a hapless yet lovable detective, and he's thrilled to be back in action.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Who Dares Wins. **6.10** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Jimmy Osmond, Kym Mazelle, Jedward, Nancy Lam, Sam Simmons, Ossie Ardiles and Guillem Balagué compete in an internationally themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show. **7.20** **Doctor Who.** Doctor and Bill visit Regency London to attend the last of the great frosts, but get wrapped up in a mystery when a sinister force stirs beneath the ice of the frozen Thames. **8.10** **Casualty.** Part two of two. Roy Ellison's relatives cause chaos in the ED, and Lily is rushed into the ward after being found unconscious in the car park. **9.00** BBC News: Weather. **9.20** **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Agnes invites one last selection of celebrities into her home, as her Saturday night chat show concludes. This time, actor, singer and West End star Michael Ball pulls up a chair in Mrs Brown's sitting room, along with actress and one-time Strictly Come Dancing contestant Sunetra Sarker. Most Haunted presenter Yvette Fielding lends her ghost-hunting skills to Dermot and Buster during their Celebrity Haunted House tour; National Lottery Update. **10.20** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Southampton v Hull City at St Mary's Stadium and Crystal Palace v Burnley at Selhurst Park. **11.25** **Murder in Successville.** Guest rook Martin Kemp goes back in time to solve the very first murder in Victorian Successville, that of lady-of-the-night Rita Ora. Comedy, starring Tom Davis. **11.55** **Film: Wild Hogs.** (2007) Four middle-aged suburban friends try to rev up their lives on a cross-country motorbike trip. Comedy adventure, with John Travolta, William H Macy, Tim Allen and Martin Lawrence. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.25** **Film:** On Moonlight Bay. (1951) **8.00** **Film:** That's Entertainment Part Two. (1976) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.30** **Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** (R) **1.15** 60s Icons: Taking Pictures. **1.45** **Film:** The Iceless Sea. (1965) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. **3.30** Natural World. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **5.30** The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years. (R) **6.30** **Dad's Army.** HO discover that Mainwaring is not a commissioned officer and he is ordered to join the ranks as a private. Sergeant Wilson is put in temporary charge, but his lack of leadership skills during a training exercise leaves the platoon yearning for the captain's reinstatement. Comedy first aired in 1969, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Marco Fu, with Selby prevailing 17-15 in a high-quality encounter to reach his third world final, where he would face qualifier Ding Junhui. **9.30** **Film: Calvary.** (2014) Premiere. A priest in a rural Irish village receives a confession from a man who vows to kill him in one week as punishment for the Catholic Church's history of child abuse. The cleric spends his last seven days trying to put his community's affairs in order, but finds himself surrounded by people who harbour resentments of their own against the Church. Drama, starring Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd, Kelly Reilly, Aidan Gillen and Dylan Moran. **11.05** **Versailles.** The King's bad example is seen as typical of the nobility's immorality as his adultery with Madame de Montespan not only troubles his Queen but also zealous young Father Pascal. (R) Inside Versailles. **12.05** **Film:** Rabbit-Proof Fence. (2002) **1.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knockout Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockout Street. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.20** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **11.20** Tipping Point. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Bigheads. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's race meetings at Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **4.30** Britain's Got More Talent. **5.30** Catchphrase. (R) **6.15** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.25** ITV News: Weather. **6.45** **Take Me Out.** Paddy McGuinness presents as Croydon bartender Tommy, prison officer Luke from Swansea, Essex-based salesman Bayo, and travel consultant Rishi from Leeds enters the 'Love It'. All four hope to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** The audition stage reaches its third week, as judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon continue to travel the length and breadth of the nation to invite more would-be stars to demonstrate their unique talents on-stage. This year, the judges already seem to be eager to place their stamp on performers, as the usually reticent Simon hit his Golden Buzzer during the very first set of auditions. **9.20** **Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Kimberley Walsh, Jonathan Ross and Andi Peters – to guess the identities of the famous owners. (R) **10.15** ITV News: Weather. **10.35** **Film: Yes Man.** (2008) A downtrodden man has his life transformed when he decides to say yes to every opportunity. Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel. **12.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.35** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **11.25** F1 Meets Daniel Ricciardo. **11.55** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. **2.30** The Auctioneers. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **3.55** Big House. Location, Location. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **The Restoration Man.** Architect George Clarke returns to catch up with London couple Justin Hooper and Charlotte Seddon, who first appeared in the show's third series, planning to transform a derelict wartime airfield control tower in Scotland into a new family home. Four years later, George finds out how the pair's ambitious venture fared, as they struggled to project-manage the site from 600 miles away. With costs spiralling out of control, Justin and Charlotte faced a difficult decision: shut down the build, or make a complete lifestyle change by relocating their family to the site. **8.00** **Walking Through Time.** Paleobiologist Dr Tom Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. (R) **9.00** **Film: Carol.** (2015) Premiere. A housewife trapped in a loveless marriage in 1950s New York forms a close attachment with a younger woman seeking fulfillment in her own life. Romantic drama based on Patricia Highsmith's novel The Price of Salt, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara. **11.20** **Film: Zombieland.** (2009) A small group of survivors goes in search of a safe haven in an America overrun by ravenous zombies. Comedy horror, starring Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg and Emma Stone. **1.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Shipping Wars UK. (R) **4.20** Fifteen to One. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Access. **10.55** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.20** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.15** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.15** On Benefits: Costa del Dole. (R) **2.15** On Benefits: Living the High Life. (R) **3.15** On Benefits: Single & Skint. (R) **4.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R) **6.10** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In West London, agents Max and Cona chase up more than £2,000 in unpaid parking fines, but when they try to seize a vehicle, the debtor tries to tie a tree. Meanwhile in Lancashire, officers Stewart and Elmor try to collect £4,000 owed for unpaid nursery fees. (R) **7.05** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** The team investigates the death of a Navy intelligence officer, and the choice of murder weapon leads the agents to believe he was killed by a colleague. However, while former SAs Sam threatens to compromise the integrity of the case, evidence suggests the victim may have been selling secrets to the enemy. **8.00** **NCIS.** The team must ask a traumatised serviceman to recall the events of an ambush he survived while serving in Iraq, after a American couple are attacked in the very same spot. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Action from the penultimate round of regular-season fixtures in the Championship, including Brighton & Albion v Bristol City at the Amex Stadium, Leeds United v Norwich City at Eland Road, and Ipswich Town v Sheffield Wednesday at Portman Road. **10.00** **Film on 5: Goal Rush.** George Fotherly and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in League Two, including Hartlepool United v Barnet and Carlisle United v Newport County. **10.15** **Film: Tower Block.** (2012) The residents of a soon-to-be-demolished tower block are trapped while a mysterious sniper picks them off one by one. Thriller, starring Sheridan Smith and Jack O'Connell. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** **Film:** The Long Ships. (1963) **5.15** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British **8.00** The BBC at War **9.00** **Film:** Pioneer (2013) **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **2.05** Duets: The Andy Williams Show **3.05** Sounds of the Eighties **3.35** Close **ITV4**

**1.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.25** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Take Me Out **2.45** Take Me Out - The Gossip **3.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **4.20** **Film:** Flubber (1997) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** **Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.10** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **8.20** Scorpion **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.25** Celebrity Juice **11.25** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **2.10** Through the Keyhole **3.00** Teleshopping **ITV3**

**12.55** Margery and Gladys **3.00** Lewis **4.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order. UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**

**12.45** Counting Cars **1.40** Football Rivalries **2.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage. **5.15** Football Rivalries **5.30** Storage Wars: Texas **5.55** Fierce **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** **Film:** The Devil's Advocate (1997) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** **Film:** The Devil's Advocate (1997) **11.55** **Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00** **Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **2.10** Cash Cowboys **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**

**12.30** **Film:** Hop (2011) **2.30** **Film:** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Safe House (2012). A CIA agent has to protect a captured fugitive from mercenaries, but also has to resist his prisoner's mind games. Thriller, with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. **11.15** Gogglebox. Viewers' opinions on The Island with Bear Grylls and The Eurovision Song Contest. **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** New Girl **Film4**

**11.00** Courage Mountain (1990) **1.00** The Borrowers (1997) **2.45** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.20** One Fine Day (1996) **6.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** Bad Neighbours (2014) **10.50** Willow Creek (2013) **12.25** Troll Hunter (2010) **2.30** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) **4.00** Close

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4 Star Summer in the AUSTRIAN MOUNTAINS (LECH)

Departing Sunday 9 July 2017

Price Includes...

✓ Return flight







## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### Saving Mr Banks, BBC1, 8.30pm

Walt Disney becomes determined to adapt Mary Poppins into a film, but faces an obstacle in the shape of author PL Travers, who resists the idea of a sentimental Hollywood version of her book. Fact-based drama, with Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Paul Giamatti and Colin Farrell. (2013)

### TUESDAY

#### A Walk Among the Tombstones, Channel 5, 9pm

An ex cop working as an unlicensed private eye is hired by a drug trafficker to find the men who murdered his wife. Crime thriller based on Lawrence Sanders' novel, starring Liam Neeson. (2014)

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Bling Ring, Channel 4, 1.55am

Five teenagers united by an obsession with celebrity steal from the houses of the rich and famous stars they idolise, using the internet to follow their targets' movements. When the police finally catch up with them, the arrest brings a taste of the fame they have craved. Fact-based drama, starring Emma Watson and Israel Broussard. (2013)



Saving Mr Banks, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

### FRIDAY

#### It's Complicated, Channel 5, 10pm

Divorced couple Jane and Jake are reunited at their son's college graduation after 10 years apart, and end up sleeping together. Despite Jake's marriage to a younger woman and Jane's fledgling romance with a kindly architect, the pair end up having a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin, John Krasinski, Lake Bell, Mary Kay Place, Rita Wilson and Alexandra Wentworth. (2009)

#### American Gangster, ITV, 10.40pm

The story of 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas, whose innovative methods of smuggling heroin into the US made him one of the leading figures in the New York underworld. A detective is assigned to bring Lucas's empire down, but his investigation is undermined by police corruption. Ridley Scott's fact-based crime drama, starring Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Josh Brolin. (2007)

# Kayvan promises '100 per cent real news guaranteed'

As the Fonejacker and Facejacker, Kayvan Novak became known as the man of a thousand voices.

His masterful characters including call centre anti-hero Mr Internet Service Providings, cockney geezer Terry Tibbs and polite Ugandan scammer Augustus Kwembe showed off his remarkable ability to create a range of different characters.

However, Novak is also very versatile and his acting CV includes everything from Oscar-winning thriller Syriana, an acclaimed performance in the 2010 controversial cult comedy Four Lions and voicing Brains in the Thunderbirds Are Go re-boot.

You may have also seen him as a smooth-talking face of bookie's complaints department and in the 2015 BBC Four sitcom Asylum which was inspired by Julian Assange's two-year stay in the Ecuadorian embassy.

And the 38-year-old British Iranian is back on familiar territory with new

satirical series Britain Today Tonight in which he plays a variety of roles at the fictional Channel 9Nine News Network.

The show has been made by Peep Show creators Objective Productions, with Channel 4 describing the format as "a spoof tabloid news show" that shines a light on contemporary Britain and promises "100 per cent real news guaranteed".

And make no mistake, with Novak playing the part of prize-winning American host Douglas 'Digger' Daley, the reporters and even some of the subjects of the reports – this is the 'news' as you have never seen it before.

Britain Today Tonight features brand-new specially created characters, and just like Fonejacker and Facejacker it will see the Baffa-winning comedian causing havoc on the streets of Britain.

Channel 4 explains: "He'll be disguising himself as a range of weird and wonderful personalities in order to perform a range of hidden

camera hits on celebrities and politicians, as well as winding up the public at large.

"With Kayvan at the centre of every 'news report', this is the hardest-hitting, most sensational, and most importantly, funniest news show ever seen. Probably."

The six-part series kicks off with a double bill tonight as 'Digger' Daley and the team lift the lid on what's happening in Great Britain and the rest of the world.

Security correspondent Jon Donovan lets his imagination run wild as he goes to Essex and Tooting, south London, to get to grips with exactly how British shopkeepers are guarding against a terrorist attack.

Plus, lifestyle reporter Mandi Manners tries to quit smoking and a debate ensues between a licensed black cabbie and an Uber driver.

Finally, entertainment correspondent Mike Armenian follows the auditions for the lead role of gay England football captain Mark Curridge.



Kayvan Novak stars in Britain Today Tonight, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

# BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

#### The Island with Bear Grylls, Channel 4, 9pm

With old and young now living side by side, the islanders are hoping to hit their stride, but the lack of food is an ever-pressing concern and tempers are fraying. Jordan is feeling out of sorts and then has a fight with Richie, while the members of the group are furious when Phil uses some olive oil to boost the fire rather than for food.

#### Little Boy Blue, ITV, 9pm

Family and friends attend the funeral of 11-year-old Rhys Jones is laid to rest, while a police raid at the home of Kevin Moody leads to the recovery of the gun used in the schoolboy's murder. Moody must choose between being labelled a grass and risking violent retribution or protecting the killer and facing jail time. But an unexpected result from the forensic tests on the firearm leaves the entire investigation hanging in the balance..

### TUESDAY

#### Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Animals – India, ITV, 9pm

The presenter concludes his Indian adventure with a trip to Assam, which is most famous for its tea but

is also important for wildlife – it's home to Kaziranga National Park. Paul pitches in at an animal rescue centre, where he finds himself helping to look after eight elephant calves. He also heads to a local village to learn more about how the residents and animals live side by side – and tries his hand at goat herding. Then it's on to Northern India and a rescue centre that specialises in caring for sloth bears. Paul is put on porridge duty, and discovers the animals do have a real taste for it. In fact, the job keeps him so busy he might not even have time to make it to the Taj Mahal before sunset, but there are still plenty of others sights to see when he goes out on wildlife emergency call, and is faced with a huge python.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Madeleine McCann: 10 Years On, BBC1, 9pm

British toddler Madeleine McCann's disappearance 10 years ago from a holiday apartment in the resort in the Algarve region of Portugal has been investigated by police forces in two different countries – but they came up with contradictory conclusions. So what really happened to the three-year-old in Praia da Luz on the night of

May 3, 2007? Reporter Richard Bilton – who has covered the story for the BBC since the first days – examines the evidence and tracks down the men British police have questioned about the case.

### THURSDAY

#### Mind the Age Gap, Channel 5, 10pm

With society apparently more divided than ever, 12 volunteers from two different generations attempt to bridge the gap. In this five-part series, no topic will be left untouched, but can a willingness to understand each other end positively or will it just open more questions about today's society? During the first dinner, an attempt at getting to know each other triggers uncomfortable debates. Tension is in the air, and gay marriage is the first topic that divides old from young. While the older group is keen to debate, the younger ones, including Naman and Jed, sense an opportunity to



Madeleine McCann: 10 Years On, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

party. Then, an innocent game of Guess the Celebrity quickly turns into a raging debate about the EU, in which members of all ages clash.

### FRIDAY

#### Versailles, BBC2, 9pm

Princess Palatine gets a cold reception in the bed of her new husband Philippe following their marriage celebration. Meanwhile, young Sophie learns her destiny lies in an even crueler match – by order of King Louis. Elsewhere, Bontemps spots misbehaviour that suggests a new prime suspect for the poisonings to Marchal and a remark by medic Claudine echoing an earlier comment, clarifies the case. Period drama, starring George Blagden, Jessica Clark and Lizzie Brochere.

### Hospital People

#### BBC1, 9.30pm

Viewers of a certain age will recall Only When I Laugh, the ITV sitcom which left millions in stitches in the 1980s. Now this similar show is also doing a good job of tickling the funnybone. In this offering, a benevolent local businessman seeks treatment in Brimlington Hospital – much to manager Susan Mitchell's delight. The cast includes Mark Williams, Janine Duviski and Tom Binns.

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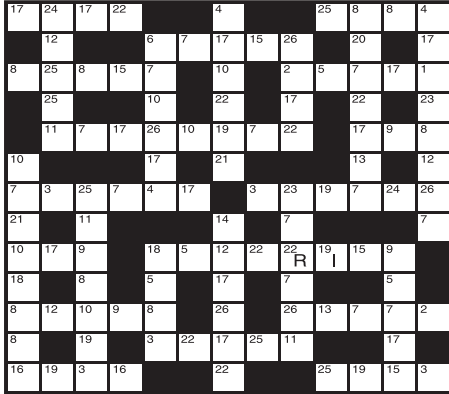


# BRAIN GYM

No.427

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Q	L	B	W	D	P	O	E	Y	V	X	I	H
M	A	F	T	S	G	K	R	C	N	J	U	Z

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

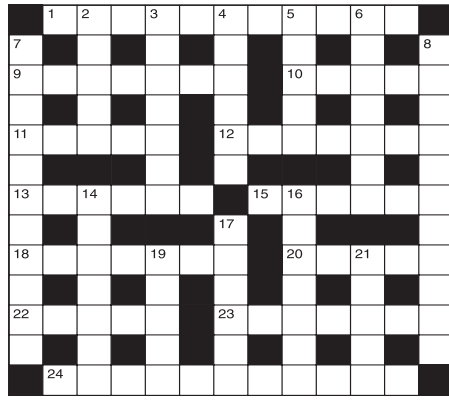
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Soldier in the nursery? (11)
- Bill speaking well? (7)
- Useful quality in the manner laid down (5)
- Spartan slave emerges from hotel (5)
- Passage taken straight from pamphlet (7)
- Sector guard (6)
- Change of backbone is plan (6)
- E.g. lanes in Africa (7)
- Kenneth is to receive the souvenir (5)
- Public voter (5)
- Was seen about in this place since (7)
- Relate empty reforms in moderation (11)

#### Down

- Fresh fiction (5)
- He can look down easily on lots of people (7)
- Almost No 1 amongst ancient cities (6)
- Still about since a fermenting agent (5)
- Don't touch sailor with a blemish (7)
- Strained atmosphere while flying (4,7)
- Dignity of ranks in countries (11)
- Yield on one occasion in three consecutive letters (7)
- The condition of the sufferer under treatment? (7)
- Blooming river? (6)
- Rise to such costume (3-2)
- Get down to service instruction (5)



### Quick Clues:

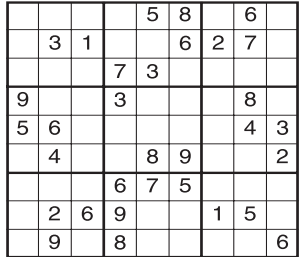
#### Across

- Knowledge (11)
- Withdrawal (7)
- Allude (5)
- Flanks (5)
- In name only (7)
- Selected (6)
- Calculate (6)
- Treachery (7)
- Consumed (5)
- Speechify (5)
- Speedy (7)
- Informal (4,3,4)

#### Down

- Well known (5)
- Superintend (7)
- Revolt (6)
- To drum (5)
- Umbrage (7)
- Suing (11)
- Simplicity (11)
- Outside (4-3)
- Spire (7)
- Invisible (6)
- Riddle (5)
- Lock of hair (5)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	9	3	1	2	4	8	6
2	3	4	7	6	8	9	5	1
6	8	1	5	4	9	2	3	7
1	6	3	4	2	7	8	5	9
9	4	5	8	3	6	7	1	2
7	1	6	9	5	4	3	2	8
4	5	2	6	8	3	1	7	9
3	9	8	2	7	1	5	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Keep left; 5 Cord; 9 Able; 10 Strikers; 11 Order; 12 Ragtime; 13 For the present; 18 Race card; 19 Avid; 20 Examine; 21 Fishy; 22 Some; 23 Standard.  
 Down: 2 Embargo; 3 Pretext; 4 Future perfect; 6 One-time; 7 Dissect; 8 Single; 13 Forgers; 14 Reclaim; 15 Hectic; 16 Seabird; 17 Neither.  
 QUICK - Across: 1 Peculiar; 5 Fair; 9 Menu; 10 Appeared; 11 Minus; 12 Embroll; 13 Fellow-feeling; 18 Outright; 19 City; 20 Derange; 21 Snubs; 22 Dull; 23 Reviewer.  
 Down: 2 Eremite; 3 Unusual; 4 Apple of the eye; 6 A priori; 7 Red flag; 8 Feeble; 13 Flooded; 14 Literal; 15 Orient; 16 Licence; 17 Notable.

## Quiz

- What do we call an invertebrate whose body is divided into head, thorax and abdomen?
- In which country did the mazurka originate?
- Which late comedian jokingly insulted Prince Charles at the British Comedy Awards?
- Which colonel administrator was responsible for the acquisition and foundation of Singapore?
- By what other name is Israel's Lake Tiberias known?
- Who was the first monk to become archbishop of Westminster?
- Who wrote the novel Flamingo Feather in 1955?
- Which volcano buried Pompeii in AD 79?
- Whose father was Robert I, known as The Devil?
- In which city is Romeo and Juliet set?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Hardness of minerals; 2 Painting and Illustration; 3 Cider; 4 Lillie Langtry; 5 Duisburg; 6 Algae; 7 Unification Church; 8 Hart to Hart; 9 Milton Obote; 10 Arctic.

### Niner: BOARDINGS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

73921  
4522785  
92262

gives an animal,  
gives a second animal,  
gives birds.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Peri cool place for lunch

It's a popular high street chain and Wolverhampton Nando's has had a revamp. EMILY BRIDGEWATER checks it out

**MEDIUM, hot, or extra hot? How spicy do you like your Nando's? How hot?**

If the sub-zero temperature in Wolverhampton's revamped branch of Nando's was anything to go by, at the time we visited, then it's extra hot all the way. My two pals and I visited the popular Afro-Portuguese chain one lunchtime, shortly after it had reopened following a month-long refurb.

They've done a good job; the restaurant has been opened out and new fixtures and fittings have given its slightly tired interior a fresh lease of life. But the first thing we all comment on is the temperature – it's colder in than out. We are however, warmly greeted by a friendly member of staff who offers us a choice of tables.

## Options

And so to the menu, which everyone knows features predominately chicken plus a handful of other options for veggies and the likes.

There was talk of salads but all good intentions were thrown out and we opted for burgers, pittas and plenty of sides.

The man among us plumped for the butterfly chicken, while my friend and I sidelined the chook in favour of beanie burgers.

Orders are placed at the counter – the same guy serves me as showed us to our table, and he's as breezy and friendly as when we arrived. Full marks for pleasant staff.

Starters included hounous with peri peri drizzle and warm pitta bread strips and a trio of chicken wings spiced to your liking. Meanwhile, the main courses feature all manner of chicken dishes, from burgers to the whole she-



Nice 'n' spicy – how hot do you like your chicken at Nando's? Here it's served with spicy rice and a side salad

bang, as well as a fillet steak wrap for those who the lure of red meat is too great, and salads for those 'trying to be good'.

We start with gigantic olives and some spicy nuts although unfortunately my friend finds a hair in the latter. Add three refillable drinks and some good conversation and we're kept busy enough until our main courses arrive. The olives were fairly plump and juicy, and the nuts – a pleasing mix of cashews, almonds and macadamias – well-seasoned and moreish.

The double butterfly chicken drenched in hot sauce looked appetising, as did the two beanie burgers (both medium hot) in pitta breads, packed with crunchy shredded cabbage and carrot. Three spicy chicken wings plus sides including macho peas, coleslaw, chips, mixed salad, corn on the cob and a supergrain salad, and we tucked in with gusto.

My beanie patty in a pitta, topped with haloumi, filled a hole without being something particularly memorable. The burger fea-

tures chickpeas, sweetcorn, lentils, peas and pumpkin seeds, bound together with Cheddar cheese, although none of the ingredients particularly stood out. It all seemed a bit of a bland mush. The salad was fresh and the cheese griddled to perfection.

The chicken muncher was also underwhelmed, commenting that his bird was a bit dry. The same goes for the chicken wings, he said, mournfully. Side dishes were hits and misses. We all agreed the supergrain salad

with grains, greens, beans and an avocado and buttermilk dressing. We also liked the minty, chilli-spiked macho peas.

We managed to munch through most of it and we were left stuffed and unable to face desert despite tantalising options such as a traditional Portuguese custard tart (natas), salted caramel brownies and carrot cake.

The bill came in at £50.85 including three refillable soft drinks, which seemed reasonable for the sheer volume of food.



The newly-revamped Nando's in Queen Street, Wolverhampton

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## Large bungalow is situated on corner plot

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Call 0121 585 6667 for more information or to book that all important viewing.



## Bungalow is spacious and detached and new to market

**KINGSWINFORD**  
**£269,950**

<<<

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Outside this home has a front lawn and drive, a garage and gardens with a patio and lawns. The garden is positioned to make the most of the afternoon sun.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the home for you, contact Taylors on 01384 401777.

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# Impressive seven seater from Skoda

By Ian Donaldson

**How gratifying it must be for Skoda – a brand always strong on value – to see customers lining up to spend more than they could get away with.**

For nearly everyone ordering a new Skoda Kodiaq, the firm's first seven seater, wants the version that sits near the top of the range, not near the bottom.

The Kodiaq (its name alluding to a bear found in Alaska) is available from £21,565 but 85 per cent of potential purchasers want posher ones costing more than £7,000 extra.

That surely signals Skoda's warranted arrival among cars that are fancied for their looks and ability more than their list price. A drive in the newcomer says the first owners of a Kodiaq made the right choice.

Longer (at 4,697mm) than both a Volvo XC60 or Audi Q5, the Kodiaq is a genuinely spacious car, with three rows of seats in the upper two trim levels (SE L and Edition) with the rearmost pair capable of comfortably seating a couple of young teenagers.

They might have to scramble past a second row of seats that slide forward but whose bases don't tilt upward, but the Kodiaq is going to be an answer for families sometimes called on to transport kids to football.

Better still, even with the third row in use there's the same amount of luggage space behind them that you might find in your average small hatchback – so enough for a decent shop. Fold all the seats down and the Kodiaq could probably house its namesake.

You can't opt for the third row in the entry level Kodiaq S and it costs £1,000 on the next grade up (SE) but almost all the early adopters are buying three-rowed versions anyway. They'll also favour a Kodiaq with a

150 horsepower 2.0 litre diesel, the same unit that does sterling service in a host of other Volkswagen Group cars, from Audi through SEAT to VW itself. It costs from £27,114 in an SE level car, equipped with a 6-speed DSG automatic gearbox. Also on offer is a 190 horsepower diesel and a trio of petrol engines, two 1.4 litres offering 125 or 150 horsepower and a more powerful 2.0 litre petrol with 180 horses. The lowest powered petrol model is the only Kodiaq available with a manual 6-speed gearbox and front wheel drive.

All the rest of the range is equipped with either an auto box or on-demand all-wheel drive, or both. They're both on parade in the current range topping Edition model, costing £34,050 and coming with the 150 horsepower diesel, whose 144g/km tailpipe emissions promise a reasonable £200 road tax hit from new under the latest Treasury revamp.

Most powerful engine at present is the 190 horsepower 2.0 litre diesel, available in a single SL L trim version for £33,110. Later in the year we'll see a Scout model with more obvious off-road looks (think plastic wheel arch extensions) and then a SportLine option too (think slightly lowered, firmed suspension and some black paint).

Without those stiffened springs the Kodiaq proved itself a delightfully comfortable companion on some indifferent roads in deepest western Britain, combining fine body control with an ability to soak up the rash of potholes and cracks our roads have succumbed to.

There's a sense of real solidity in the Kodiaq's cabin, smart enough to make you wonder how the designers at Audi make their cars look and feel worth all the extra cash.

Everything, from simplest switch to the satellite navigation system on the SE L and



The Kodiaq proved itself a delightfully comfortable companion on some indifferent roads

Edition models does its job so well you know many candles have been burned at both ends to make things just ... well, work.

The entry level S, with just a 1.4 petrol engine offered comes with LED daytime running lights, manual air conditioning, 17 inch alloy wheels, DAB radio and SmartLink to easily connect your smartphone. Up a grade, to SE and we find 18 inch alloys, cruise control, rear parking sensors, dual zone climate control and auto dimming mirrors.

The likely most popular level – SE L, tops up these goodies with sat nav, still larger (19 inch) alloys, powered tailgate, Alcantara trim and heated front seats.

Topping the Kodiaq tree, the Edition piles on leather upholstery, metallic paint and chrome roof rails. Added techno features include lane assist, high beam assist and wireless charging for a compatible mobile phone.

Depending on model, you'll also find evidence of Skoda's Simply Clever thinking,

from umbrella neatly hidden in a front door to ice scraper sitting in the fuel filler flap.

But back to the ride in an SE L 150 diesel. It's no ball of fire (9.5 seconds to 0-62mph), but plenty potent enough for satisfactory progress and quiet with it.

A journey's end 50.5mpg on the dash readout (the official average is 52.3mpg) hinted that longer term acquaintance with a Kodiaq would only cement a positive relationship with an impressive new Skoda.



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# Unleash your inner explorer in SUV

By James Parker

Hyundai Motor UK has launched a highly-equipped SUV perfect for those who consider every drive an expedition – the Santa Fe Endurance Edition.

Sitting at the top of Hyundai's range, it celebrates a recent history-making drive by Patrick Bergel, the great grandson of legendary polar explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

In December 2016, Bergel completed a 30-day expedition in a near-standard 2.2-litre diesel Santa Fe, driving across Antarctica from Union Camp to McMurdo and back again, commemorating the centenary of Shackleton's heroic Trans-Antarctic expedition of 1914-16.

This was the first time a passenger vehicle had ever traversed the Antarctic continent and the standard 2.2-litre Santa Fe used by Bergel featured only a handful of modifications to counter the tough Antarctic conditions, such as the fitment of large, low-pressure tyres, a 250-litre fuel tank and a pre-heater for the cold.

To commemorate this incredible achievement, Hyundai Motor UK will make just 500 Endurance Edition models available.

Each car is based on the 2.2 diesel seven seat 4WD Automatic Santa Fe in Premium SE trim with Convenience Pack, which boasts Smart Electric Tailgate, Panoramic Sunroof, Autonomous Emergency Braking, Smart Cruise Control and Around View Monitor.

In addition, the Santa Fe Endurance will also feature additional special equipment.

Customers can choose from five limited colours: solid Creamy White, pearl White Crystal, metallic Titanium Silver, pearl Phantom Black and metallic Mineral Blue – the same colour as that of Bergel's expedition car.

Endurance Editions are further marked out by 19-inch alloy wheels – wrapped in 235/55 R19 tyres – Side Bar Sport running steps.

The final touch is a special Endurance logo, which can be found on the B-pillar and interior floor mats.

## Survived

The eye-catching logo commemorates Shackleton's Endurance expedition and features the Shackleton Family Motto and a 28-point compass representing the 28 crew that survived.

The Santa Fe Endurance will be priced at £38,995, representing a saving of £2,400 over a standard Premium SE with Convenience Pack and Automatic transmission and can be ordered from 18 May 2017.

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO of Hyundai UK said: "This new Endurance Edition offers customers an incredibly well-equipped Santa Fe, one that will be able to tackle everything family life throws at it...and more. As Sir Ernest Shackleton's Great Grandson, Patrick Bergel proved just a few months ago, with just a few choice modifications, you could even traverse Antarctica!"

Watch the epic film of the Antarctic adventure at [www.Shackletonsreturn.hyundai.com](http://www.Shackletonsreturn.hyundai.com) or on <https://youtu.be/J01mqggN0h8>

HYUNDAI SANTA FE ENDURANCE EDITION, £38,995



The Limited edition Santa Fe celebrates a recent history-making drive by the great grandson of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton



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# Blend of performance and economy

By John Griffiths

Vauxhall's Corsa used to be the baby of the pack – that role now goes to the Viva – but it still holds the title of one of Britain's favourites, consistently in the top five best-sellers list.

It has grown, matured (and naturally become more expensive too) as the Adam and the new Viva have taken its place as Vauxhall's most affordable models.

In doing so it has improved, grown and become more economical ensuring that it remains a totally credible rival for the top-selling Ford Fiesta.

The test car was a top of the range Limited Edition, with the latest and arguably most efficient engine under the bonnet.

It's a stylish car, with a high class interior with a modern, sporty theme and premium materials, as befits its £17,360 price tag (undercutting the equivalent Ford by a couple of hundred pounds). It is also well-equipped, including Vauxhall's sophisticated touchscreen and connectivity system, although satnav isn't on the standard kit list.

The power plant was Vauxhall's latest 1.0 litre, three cylinder turbocharged engine – which appears to be the engine of the future judging by how many manufacturers are doing for the same size/format.

The figures speak for themselves: 0 to 62mph in 10.3 seconds, an official average of 57.6mpg (I got between 44 and 49mpg in varying conditions) and a low 113g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>. That betters the older, 1.4 petrol engine in the Corsa range in each department, particularly performance (0 to 62mph in 15.5 seconds).

The difference is not only the extra power (115PS) of the little turbo, but the boost provided by the forced induction, creating torque (170Nm) more akin to a small diesel unit than a petrol one.

This combination is a world away from normally aspirated, 1.0 units of yesteryear, even though most had an extra cylinder.

On motorways or on hills, it performs at lower revs, therefore remaining quieter and smoother: more like a 1.6 litre unit but using less fuel and producing lower emissions.

The Limited Edition runs on sports suspension, complementing the sporty interior trim such as aluminium pedals and leather-clad, sports style steering wheel.

It sits on 17-inch black alloy wheels and wide, low profile tyres which give a firm but not uncomfortable ride. The six-speed gearbox is slick with a short-throw action, and the steering is quick and positive.

With the benefit of the sports suspension, the ride height is slightly slower and turn-in sharper, with less body roll through the quicker corners.

In short, its dynamic combination of suspension steering, ride and performance sufficient to put it in the 'warm hatch' category – but with a rather more cossetting and mature experience than some who shout that designation from the rooftops.

The dash is dominated by the now usual central touchscreen controller with Vauxhall's latest multimedia system, and an ability to link up with smartphone functions.

The car also has Vauxhall's excellent OnStar system: just three buttons which give you instant access to human operators (in Luton) for a wide range of assistance, from helping

VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED EDITION, £17,360



The Limited Edition Corsa is a rewarding drive with sporty styling and a good blend of performance and economy

to locate your car) to checking the vehicle's vital functions, providing directions or sending the emergency services to your location in the event of an incident. It's a useful system, more normally found on much more expensive cars.

The dash is divided by a horizontal, body coloured flash of metal along with highlights of chrome and black gloss panelling, making the cabin a modern and pleasant place to be.

The sports-style wheel has an array

of remote control functions for audio, handsfree telephone, cruise control and a comprehensive trip computer.

The Limited Edition also comes with a heated windscreen, tinted rear windows, air conditioning, hill start assist, tyre pressure monitoring, electrically heated and adjusted door mirrors, and sports-style front seats.

It has plenty of head and leg room for four adults (five could be a squeeze) and a class average boot for 280, with the rear seats up.

The Limited Edition is the consummate Corsa: a rewarding drive, sporty styling and a good blend of performance and economy.

It also sits at the top of the range price-wise, and some drivers will no doubt opt for the proven 1.3 turbo diesel with its potential fuel economy of more than 88mpg.

The Corsa range starts with the older, 1.4 petrol engine (with a modest 75PS of power) at £10,685. There's a 90PS version, too.

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\*Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R, Corsa Diamond, ADAM Jam, Corsavan and Combo. £500 Free Fuel is not given in cash. Offer available on eligible, selected new vehicle orders from 28 April – 7 May 2017 and registered by 31 May 2017. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units. All other customers are excluded. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Refer to [www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent](http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent) or contact your local Retailer for details. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. General Motors UK Limited t/a Vauxhall Motors reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to press.



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**PETROL LAWN** push Mower, Cobra 16 DG350, never used, brand new, £100 ono. 07508 259802.

**items for sale**

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**  
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

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## AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

**SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC**

**ALSO**

**GARAGE CLEARANCES**

old enamel signs,  
petrol cans,  
old jugs,  
classic car parts,  
bikes and motorbikes.

Anything old.  
\*\* Top prices paid \*\*

01384 836219 / 07891 713547

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k +2 or 48k computer wanted, also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

## loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED** that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

**t.v. / home entertainment**

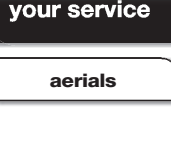
## service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST** Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

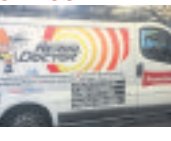
**specialists at your service**

## aerials

**CHOOSE CLASSIFIED**



**CHOOSE CLASSIFIED**



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## Brickwork Maintenance

Boundary Walls, Steps, Part Rebuilds, Brick Replacement, Repointing, Cleaning etc. CRB, C&G, Insured, Free Quotes.

**Lee**  
0789 147 5718 or 0121 602 5313  
lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

## alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!

**Call: 0121 601 9791**

## double glazing

**AT S DOUBLE GLAZING**  
UPVC Doors & Windows  
Very competitive prices, family run  
FREE QUOTES & OAP DISCOUNTS  
01922 442720 or 0783 229386

## electrical services

**STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL**  
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 85897/01902 846167.

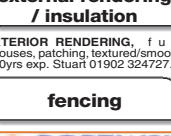
## external rendering / insulation

**EXTERIOR RENDERING**, f u i l houses, patching, textured/smooth. 40yrs exp. Stuart 01902 324727.

## fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £695  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W.bury  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

## CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



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**ABSOLUTELY BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals and undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## AJT CLEARANCES

**FULL & PART HOUSE CLEARANCES**  
BEREAVEMENT SPECIALISTS  
LICENSED WASTE CARRIERS  
01384 732429 / 07752 175707

## painters / decorators

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**  
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators  
Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
01384 287577 or 07812 484194  
www.love2-wallpaper.co.uk

## A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING

service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880

## plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING** Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

## removals

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on  
07771 727119

## KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.  
Please call:  
**07966 281957**

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830670 / 01384 940260.

**CALL IAN:** Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

## roofing

**A BAD LEAKING ROOF**  
All Roofing Work Undertaken.  
NO JOB TOO SMALL  
H. Robinson & Son  
07738 976025

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed, Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 62



## properties wanted

**WE PAY 100%**  
of purchase price **EVERY TIME!**  
**For Your House CASH**

**You agree the price, we buy the house...**  
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU  
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**  
**01384 500 500** 30 yrs

www.black-country-homes.co.uk \* subject to terms

**Wolverhampton properties**  
**CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE**  
UP TO **£25,000** We can buy your house in 7 days  
**CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)**  
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition

**0800 389 6788** 01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week  
**I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!**  
I pay 100% of purchase price  
Call now for the best price on your house

**0800 783 2822**  
**01384 226086**

**Guaranteed offer** • **Free solicitors** • **\*Terms apply**  
• Any condition • **No fees\***  
**24 hours** **0800 783 2822**  
**Free phone** **01384 226086**  
or landline **Dewmark Homes**

**pink sell quick**  
**run by women**  
**0800 044 8109** **01922 689023**  
Call free 24 hours  
• No Fees\* • Any areas • Depositions stopped  
• Any property • Any condition • Deposed estates  
• Free confidential service

**WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH**  
CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days  
**0800 246 1047**  
**WE OFFER £20,000 CASH ADVANCE**  
✓ NO Fees & FREE Solicitors ✓ We Buy Any Area & Any Condition  
www.ukfastsale.co.uk

**Need to sell your home fast?** **Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS**  
We can help you make a fresh start  
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED  
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT  
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS  
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE  
LOCAL COMPANY  
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start  
**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**  
**WHY NOT CALL US TODAY** \*Terms and Conditions apply  
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?  
**01384 930 978** **OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7**

**CHOOSE CLASSIFIED**  
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"  
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer  
For great business results call **01902 319 191**  
**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

## Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk



## CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**7**  
**Jobs**

**employment wanted**

**EXPERIENCED** Bricklayer seeks employment.  
07341 021774.

**finance & accounting**

**BOOKKEEPER**

required for Kidderminster based manufacturing business. Role includes processing of records onto accounting system, cash flow management to include debt collection & dealing with suppliers.

Reports direct to MD and external accountants. Salary based upon experience.

Please send CV's to  
amiemalpass@  
sdf-auto.co.uk

**8**  
**Motoring**

**cars over £1500**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO**  
Diesel 2008, 67,000 Miles, electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, central locking, pas, Alloys, CD  
**£2,299 ono**  
**07879 403302**

## BARGAIN

**FIAT PUNTO EVO SPORTING 135HP**

2010, too many extras to list, top of the range, black with tinted windows, 77k, one owner, HPI clear.

**£2,495**  
for quick sale.

Telephone 07515 532098.



**FORD 2006 KA STYLE**

Genuine 12,200 miles from new. Original owner. Immaculate condition. FSH. New service and MoT.

**£1,695 ono.**

Ideal 1st car.

**07584 237858 or**

**0121 5508840.**



**FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 95**

1400, 5Dr hatchback, grey metallic, 2010, MoT January 2018, fsh, excellent condition, one previous keeper, extras, alloys, CD, mats, etc.

**£4,695 ono.**

**07739 267589.**



**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE**

5dr Hatchback, 2007, extras. Air con, CD, alloys, mats, heated front screen, 84,849 miles, SH, 12 month MoT, very good condition.

**£1,595 ono.**

**07739 267589.**



**HYUNDAI COUPE 1.6 SIII S**

2009, 3-door, long MoT, part service history. 112,000 miles. Leather trim, sports seats. Good condition.

**£1,900,ono**

Telephone 01902 833126 / 07738 512150.

**4X4**

**KIA SORENTO**

2004, 2.5 diesel, 4WD, MoT, Sat Nav, parking sensors, reversing camera, tow bar, full leather interior, good condition for year.  
**Reduced to £2,350 ono.**  
**07773 354042 / 07703 548050.**

**4X4**

**LANDROVER DEFENDER 90**

2.4 TDCi, 2008, hard top, 3-dr, manual, grey, alloy wheels, electric windows, tow bar, 2 owners from new, full main dealer service history, excellent condition.

**£14,999.**

**07411 414284.**



**MERCEDES 2.0 SLK**

2002, 69,150 miles, black, abs, electric windows, 12 months MoT, cruise control, AMG alloys, spots, leather interior, electric heated seats.

**£2,850.**

**07707 529224.**

## PRESTIGE

**MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE**

54 reg, 74,000 miles, fsh, Obsidian black, with cream leather, keyless go, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, Sat Nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys.

Absolutely pristine.

**£9,999.**

Telephone 07836 204450 or 07545 601552.



**NISSAN MICRA 1.4 TEKNA**

3-dr, 2009, 60,000 miles, 2 owners, FSH, 10 months MoT, alloys, aircon, auto climate control, radio CD, Bluetooth, aux in, immaculate condition.

**£2,795**

**07506 019364.**

## EXCELLENT CONDITION

**SUZUKI SX4 SZ3**

2014, 7,500 Miles, red, 64 plate, 1.6 petrol, full service history, genuine reason for sale.

**£7,250**

**07760841872**

## MUST BE SEEN

**VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI**

2007, black, one owner, 12 months MoT, excellent condition.

**£2,500**

**07913 981460.**

## cars under £1500



**CITROEN C3 DESIRE**

04 reg, 1.4, silver, five door, MoT, excellent condition, first to see will buy,

**£495.**

**07791 113080.**

## DIESEL

**CITROEN PICASSO**

03 reg, blue, 63,000 miles. Drives well. Used daily. 12 months MoT.

**£650**

Telephone 07989 242850.



**FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE**

2007, 71,800 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, full MoT, new exhaust, lovely condition, ideal first car.

**£1,450.**

**07375 697505.**



**FORD FIESTA**

2005, 70,000 miles, silver, 3 door Style Climate, Cat D, 11 months MoT, been in the same family 10 years, very good condition. Cannock area.

**£799 ono.**

**07971 034838.**

## LOOK

**FORD STREET KA LUXURY CONVERTIBLE**

Metallic blue, good condition, new tyres, exhaust and battery, only done about 30 miles since last MoT (four months left)

**£950 ono.**

**07576 308558.**

## 4X4

**HONDA HRV 4 x 4**

2001, MoT December, 81,000 miles, towbar plus extras, one owner from new.

**£850.**

**SOLD.**

## BARGAIN

**MERCEDES A140 CLASSIC**

1400cc, 2002, 5-dr hatch, 64,000 miles, MoT Nov 2017, good car.

**£595.**

**01902 338628.**

## IDEAL FIRST CAR

**PEUGEOT 106 ECO INDEPENDENCE**

2000 reg.

89k, MoT end of July, very good condition and runner, burnt orange colour.

**£250 ono.**

Telephone 07947 518846.

## MUST BE SEEN

**PEUGEOT 207**

Automatic.

3 door, one lady owner, 54 reg, low mileage, leather seats.

Very good condition.

**£1,200 ono.**

Telephone 07740 739203.



**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 16V**

53 plate, 5 door, hatchback, petrol, black, 2 owners from new, MoT, only 44,000 miles, fsh, new tyres, very reliable, very good condition.

**£799.**

Telephone 07778 145597.

## MUST BE SEEN

**RENAULT SCENIC 1.4**

2004, silver, MOT August,

good little runner,

new battery.

**£700 ono**

**07929 049322.**

## SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

2004, 104,000 Miles, silver, 2.0 litre, petrol, 12 months MOT. Serviced, Good condition.

**£1,250 ono**

**07974691979**



**VAUXHALL CORSA**

1.4 Petrol, 3-dr, 07 reg, 89,978 miles, 11 months MoT, half leather, air con, alloys, parking sensors.

Very good condition.

**£1,500.**

**07866 938458.**

## classic cars

**WANTED, CLASSIC** Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.

01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

## motorbikes

**HONDA VFR 750**

4x2x1 exhaust and silencer system.

Complete centre stand for same bike.

Set of mirrors for Honda CBR, new.

Honda 600 scooter top box, large.

**01384 375875.**

## scrap vehicles

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**A BETTER PRICE** for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

**NINE LOCKS VEHICLE**

**DISMANTLERS LTD**

Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

## vehicles wanted

**alan reed cars**  
Used cars wanted for cash  
Top prices paid. HP settled.  
Buyer could call.  
**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

## Express & Star

## FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

## FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

**Package Price £399\***

Contact Tracey Thompson  
on 01902 319645 or email  
tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

\*All prices are subject to VAT



CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

**A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE**  
For Example:  
Citroen C1, C2, C3  
Hyundai i10, Toyota Yaris  
Clio & Micras  
Ring for quotes on others!  
**30 yrs experience**  
ALL AREAS COVERED  
**Call Bob**  
**01384 251328**  
**07972 169554**  
**anytime**

**9**  
**Local Information**

public & legal notices

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994  
DUDLEY - KINGSWINFORD 10K ROAD RACE  
MILE FLAT, GREENSFORGE, WORLDS END ROAD,  
CHESTER ROAD, MILL LANE, GREAT CHECKHILL ROAD,  
GREENSFORGE LANE (GREENSFORGE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Staffordshire County Council made an Order on the 27th April 2017 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along the following lengths of roads:

Mile Flat, Greensforge, Worlds End Road, Chester Road, Mill Lane, Great Checkhill Road and Greensforge Lane

unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the event; or being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

The restrictions are necessary to support the police operation in maintaining the safety of all road users along the route of the 'Flat Mile' event including competitors and team support. The restrictions will be in place from approximately 18:45 until the end of the race which is anticipated to be 21:00.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Hinksford Lane, High Street, The Holloway, Chasepool Road, Camp Hill Road, Highgate Common, Morfe Lane, Morfe Hall Lane, Blundies Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A458 Cote Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A449 Kidderminster Road, A449 Prestwood Road, A449 Wolverhampton Road and A449 Kidderminster Road.

Additional advance signage for HGVs will be placed in advance of the diversion route.

The Order will not, at any time, prevent access of pedestrians to premises situated on or adjacent to any road to which the order relates, or to any premises only accessible to pedestrians from such a road.

The Order will come into operation on the 3rd May 2017 and will remain in force until the Dudley - Kingswinford 10K Road Race is completed.

The event is being held by Dudley Kingswinford Running Club, Heathbrook, Swindon Road, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 0AV.

A Map showing all of the roads involved may be inspected during normal working hours at the office of the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, Highways, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH and can be viewed at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders)

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change  
1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000

Date: 28th April 2017

**10**  
**Personals**

personal

**Angels**  
The largest adult newspaper in the Midlands  
Adult Only - Gay/Lesbian  
Unit 5 Frederick Street,  
Walsol W52 9NE  
**01922 635544**

**ATTRACTIVE MALE 38**  
If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!

I enjoy cross country biking, bowling, cinema, pubs, meals out, walks, holidays etc new to Low Hill area and would like to meet a like minded lady aged 30 to 44 years for friendship hopefully leading to relationship.

Genuine replies only.

Photo appreciated (returned).

Box Number P20783,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**PRACTISING CHRISTIAN GUY FROM DUDLEY**

Now in semi retirement is seeking a special lady to fill that spare time, age is not important but has to be caring, compassionate and loving.

If you feel you are that person, why not drop me a line.

Box Number P20784,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146**

or email

**marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

# Buy and sell with ClassifiedsAds



**1** Visit our ClassifiedAds website  
[www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk](http://www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk)

**2** Call our Classified sales team  
on **01902 317 878**

**3** Self Serve - Create your own advert  
in print and online - visit:  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

# ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Blinds & Curtains

**Blinds4Less**  
Choose From a fantastic range!

-Pleated -Venetians  
-Romans -Curtains  
-Verticals -Awnings  
-Rollers -Shutters

"New range of chainless verticals and night and day rollers."

Give us a try before you buy!

Contact us on

**01543 226104**

**07989 588728**

**Blinds4lessdirect.com**

Carpentry

**D. SHAW**  
CARPENTRY AND BUILDING SERVICES

25 Years experience

All aspects of carpentry inc:

Stairs, Kitchens, Decking and

Fascias, Loft Conversions

For a FREE quote telephone

**07812 125353**

**01384 412933**

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**A.S.**  
Painter & Decorator

Interior & Exterior

FREE ESTIMATES

Cleanliness Assured

Call:

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Busy times – club chairman David Robinson in front of the pavilion



The club pavilion which should be open later this year



Hands on – all hands to the deck as helpers turn out to get things ready



Cannock Cricket Club getting ready for the new season

# Howzat? Club building for brighter future

**ATTENTION** may have been centred on the start of summer action but Cannock Cricket Club are on the front foot with off-field matters.

While the first team have started their Staffs Clubs Premier Division challenge club members are looking to make major improvements to their Church Lane base.

A planning application has been submitted to build a new clubhouse separate from the main Chase Park site – which houses Cannock Hockey Club as well.

Members hope an extension will be built adjacent to the current changing rooms with volunteers having already spent more than 300 hours doing preparation work to get the area up to scratch.

## Income

Club chairman David Robinson believes, if approved, the new pavilion will prove a big boost to the club's finances.

"This pavilion will help us stand alone and will hopefully help our fundraising," Robinson said. "Like with most sports, we are very much hand-to-mouth.

"We need to do what we can to generate income and we believe this new clubhouse will do that. As well as it being a place for supporters, we want to be able to rent it out for events like anniversaries and parties.

"We are looking to generate our own revenue streams and improve the facilities for everyone connected with the club."

Robinson hopes the work will be completed by the end of the year.

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joseph Masi

"Club members have put in loads of hours across the winter to do as much as they can," he continued. "It's between 300 and 400 hours of work that's gone into to getting the changing rooms ready.

"What will be the new pavilion is a 1980s building and it needs bringing up to the right specifications.

"We have got rid of a lot of stuff and done as much work as we can in the existing building which we hope will become the new changing rooms and kitchen area.

"The new pavilion extension will then be attached. Of course, work has now come to a standstill as we go through the planning process.

"But fingers crossed we will get the green light as it will make a huge difference."

## Fundraising

Robinson says he expected the majority of the work to be paid for by members holding fundraising events. But the club is also looking into other revenue streams.

"We are always on the lookout for ways to generate money for the club," he added.

"We'll be putting on fundraising events and we're confident members will be able to raise the money we need. We will also look at seeing if we can apply for funds from relevant sporting bodies."

## Ricky training with a WBA champion

RICKY SUMMERS has been taking his preparations for a shot at the British light heavyweight title to world level. It has been confirmed that his rescheduled shot at title holder Frank Buglioni will take place on Saturday June 3.

It will again be at the O2 Arena in London where Summers, from Tipton, and Buglioni were first due to meet on the under-card to the clash between David Haye and Tony Bellew.

The titlist withdrew from that March 4 date after sustaining a cut in training, but Matchroom Boxing promoter Eddie Hearn has stayed true to his word that the contest will still take place.

Summers has shared a training ring with Nathan Cleverly, the Welshman who is the reigning WBA title holder and two-time world champion in the light heavyweight division.

Summers has also put another world ruler, Carl Froch, through his paces in the past as he works up towards his own night of reckoning.

He said: "Training with Nathan is ideal for me, because Frank is big at the weight although I think I'll be the naturally bigger man on the night."

"I'm just over the moon to have a second chance."

## Neal's frustration over bar on race

STOURBRIDGE'S Matt Neal has criticised the decision to bar him starting the final race of the second weekend of the British Touring Car Championship.

Three-time champion Neal is already 42 points adrift of leader Tom Ingram in the standings after a promising start to his Donington Park weekend petered out.

After qualifying fifth, Neal took second in the first race and seventh in the second before a premature end to the third.

Having taken the lead at the first start, Neal aquaplaned off the circuit.

He was pushed out of the gravel by the marshals and took up his front-row position for the restart, only to be told he couldn't race after receiving 'outside assistance'.

But Neal said: "If the race stops before the leader has done two laps it's declared a no contest and all available cars can restart the race.

It's something we've got to take up now."

## Davies is keeping true to his weight

TIVIDALE'S Ryan Davies plans to remain at welterweight as he makes the transition from kickboxer to paid pugilist. The 24-year-old is preparing to become a pro with a four-round bow against Matthew Ashmole in Birmingham tomorrow.

He features on Errol Johnson's BCB Promotions bill at the Icknield Road fight scene, in the Edgbaston area of the Second City. The show has been titled Heavy Artillery. Davies comes into the code under the tutelage of another former kickboxer, Tyler Shakespeare, who has also brought Kyle Williams across the sports.

And Davies said: "It's a new challenge, but guts is my game and I want that title. I live the gym and I'm always on it, getting as fit as I can be. You can outwork an opponent in any sport and I don't think many opponents will be able to match me for my engine and desire. I'm training harder now than I ever have in kickboxing, because I want to do as well as I possibly can in boxing. My ambitions are high, but so is my dedication."

The main event of 'Heavy Artillery' will see Wolverhampton's Josh Burke and Coventry's Dilly Singh contest the vacant British Challenge cruiserweight title over eight rounds.





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## It's marathon effort for club road runners

ALL roads led to London at the weekend for arguably the biggest and certainly the most publicised races of the year as athletes travelled south to the capital to take part in the London Marathon.

Whilst many club members were glued to their televisions hoping to catch a glimpse of the blue hoops, the hoops themselves were slogging themselves around the streets on a day that turned surprisingly warm, great weather for spectators but not so for those competing.

Those hoping the streets of London were paved with gold may have been a little disappointed as they appeared to be littered with bottles of water and Lucozade Sport but a large group still returned to the Midlands with their own little piece of gold around their necks.

It was a nip and tuck battle to be first from DK to cross the line with the first three from the club coming home within seconds of each other. James Wright claimed the honour finishing in 3.00.16 in 1951st, Daran Bishop was 1995th in 3.00.39 and Kevin Duckworth finished in 3.01.00 in 2044th.

Matt Biggs was going well until halfway but nursed himself home with an injury in 3.09.00. Helen Tromans was first lady home for the hoops and 176th in her gender and an impressive 14th in her age group finishing in 3.10.11.

Mark Judge recorded a new PB in 3.11.29, Lorna Hulme finished in 3.17.35 despite having doubts about even reaching the start line earlier in the week and Tahir Yasin finished in 3.54.48.

David Fennell came home in 4.22.23, Aimee Pugh finished in 4.46.17, Carol Fisher in 4.47.08, Jan Burbie in 4.48.19 and Nigel Warrington in 4.49.47. Lisa Perkins finished in 5.31.33 and Deb Rochelle stopped the clock in 6.12.52.

## Double header as Heathens look to make comeback

CRADLEY are part of a Bank Holiday double header when they race at Wolverhampton on Monday.

The Heathens face league newcomers Lakeside Hammers, managed by former England skipper Kelvin Tatum, looking to hit back from their defeat against Mildenhall.

It will take place immediately after Wolverhampton's SGB Premiership encounter with King's Lynn, which gets underway at 6pm.

Admission for both meetings is available for the standard Wolves admission price, whilst Cradley season ticket holders can pay a £5 supplement to allow them to watch both meetings.

A turnstile for those wanting just to watch the Heathens' meeting will be open from approximately 7.15pm.

The Heathens will also be producing their own programme containing race cards for both meetings.

Cradley boss Will Pottinger is keen to see his side bounce back from the defeat against Mildenhall. They head to Eastbourne on Saturday before returning to Monmore on Monday.

## Bonus point for Stour in heavy defeat

Stourbridge 24 Tynedale 52

By Mark Shipp

It was hard to believe that barely four months ago Stour had secured a rare away victory at Tynedale's Corbridge ground with a wonderful display of attacking rugby. Though Stour secured a four-try bonus point their leaky defences were but a pale shadow of the performances that had held an unbeaten home record through to February.

Their opponents showed immediate intent by throwing the ball around, working the full width of the park before scrum-half Matt Outson went over in the corner for a converted try after three

minutes. Stour countered from the dropout and scrum half Ben Tibbetts worked a neat chip through the narrowside defences and regathered to score in the corner. The game ebbed and flowed but Stour went in 12-19 down at half time.

Tyne opened the second half with a score but a set of short drives were finished off by flanker Nigel Mukarati, Stour back within a score but it didn't last long.

Then they secured an attacking scrum from which captain Ciaran Moore crashed over to se-

cure the bonus point. But Tynedale were to finish the stronger, adding a couple of more tries.

Stour now just have a single fixture remaining, this Saturday on the road at South Leicester.

Meanwhile, The Lions are finally there. Fifteen years after their formation and almost five seasons since they got back into Midlands 2 by beating the same opponents, a comprehensive 46-0 away victory over Newcastle pushed them to the highest position the club has ever achieved. Midlands 1 beckons next season and much needs to be done by John Tibbetts and his team to keep them there but first they can savour a famous campaign and promotion.

# GLASSBOYS IN PLAY-OFF FINAL

Stourbridge 3  
Workington 2 (aet)

**JORDAN Archer struck an extra-time winner to edge Stourbridge a step closer to promotion from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier.**

Visitors Workington twice came from behind to force this scintillating play-off semi-final to an extra 30 minutes before the Glassboys bagged their dramatic winner. They now face either Nantwich Town or Spennymoor Town in the play-off final on Saturday with a place in the Vanarama National League North at stake.

**Drama**

There was no indication of the drama that was to follow as the sides struggled to create anything of note and Stourbridge's 33rd-minute opener came out of the blue, Tom Tonks' free-kick into the area finding veteran Stuart Pierpoint who powered a header beyond keeper Aaran Taylor.

The home side went close again early in the second half when Benbow turned and fired goalwards but keeper Taylor blocked it.

Moments later it was Stourbridge keeper Matt Gould who was in the thick of things as he pulled off a brilliant one-handed save to keep out David Symington's strike. Scott Allison pounced to turn in the rebound but the effort was offside.

Symington hauled the visitors level on 69 minutes with a sweetly-struck free-kick. But Stourbridge rallied and regained the lead on 75 minutes when Benbow held off his marker before curling a shot in from just outside the area.

Then, three minutes into injury-time, a corner was lofted in and defender Dan Wordsworth rose to head into the roof of the net forcing extra-time.

The Glassboys took the lead for a third time on 97 minutes. Good work from Tonks saw him steer the ball to Archer and he cleverly turned his marker before firing the ball in.

The Cumbrian side pressed for an equaliser but were kept at bay by some excellent defending and the safe hands of Gould.



Stourbridge striker Luke Benbow goes for goal in the extra-time win over Workington

## Sun shines on sprint finish for triathletes

THE sun shone on Wombourne on Sunday for the Black Country Triathletes first sprint triathlon of the season which saw more than 250 athletes take on the 400m swim, 20km bike and 5k run.

Although those that had an early start had a bit of a cold transition from the pool to the

bike, after cycling up to Six Ashes from Ounsdale Leisure Centre, they were well warmed up and there were lots of personal bests and fast finishes.

Overall 1st Male was Aaron Crinnian in 00:57:11 and 1st Female Lauren Evans in 01:04:34, from BCT. This year also saw the new King of the Mountain

Category sponsored by Midland Investment Agency which was won by Ben Monkton from BCT and Kate Miller from Warley Wasps.

Black Country Triathlon athletes also took a number of the age group category prizes. Ben Monkton was 2nd in 00:57:45 and Dave Nash 3rd in 00:59:19.

## Yeltz fail to secure win in last match

**Halesowen Town 1 Rushall Olympic 2**  
RUSHALL recorded their first win in 10 games with just local pride at stake in the final game of the season.

The Yeltz started in enterprising mode with early snapshots from former Pies' man Mo Diop and Ben Clarke. But the visitors broke up field from Danny Bragoli's free-kick to snatch a 15th minute lead when lively Stan Mugisha shrugged off his last marker to slot past goalkeeper Dan Platt. The visitors - with six ex-Yeltz players in their squad - went close again when Lewis Probert crashed a 17th minute shot into the side-netting.

Halesowen responded as both Nathan Walker and Lee Chilton struck free-kicks just wide.

The Pies then squandered a 40th minute chance to double their lead when former Yeltz midfielder Aaron Ford squared the ball for Michael Partodikomo to balloon over the bar from just six yards out after Partodikomo had originally started the counter-attack.

Halesowen's Andre Johnson punished the Pies profligacy by levelling in the final minute of the first half with a fine finish past goalkeeper Jose Veiga to claim Halesowen's first goal in six outings. The Pies soon regained their lead with a 69th minute winner after Partodikomo laid the ball off for Bannister to drill home from the edge of the area.

**Halesowen Town 0 Nantwich Town 0**  
Fifth place Nantwich booked their play off place but couldn't break the stalemate at the Grove last Thursday night. The visitors dominated play and threatened through captain Sam Hall.

The shot-shy Yeltz haven't scored for five games and hardly troubled the visitors.

Steve Jones finally found space in the home area in the 75th minute but Platt made a fine save and a minute later Rob Taylor cleared off the line.

## Jones out at 'Pool after just 17 games

FORMER Wolves boss Dave Jones has left his role as League Two Hartlepool manager by mutual consent.

They are on the verge of dropping out of the Football League for the first time since 1921 as they sit two points off safety with two games to play. Defender Matthew Bates takes over from Jones.

Saturday's 2-0 loss to Barnet was the final straw and led to club president Jeff Stelling resigning after an extraordinary rant on Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday in which he blasted Bridgnorth-based Jones: "For God's sake for the good of the club walk now. Go now. You've got 13 points from 51."

★★★

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